

CITY OF BALTIMORE
RESOLUTION _____
Council Bill 08-0229

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cole, Holton, Kraft, D’Adamo, Henry, Branch, Curran,
Conaway, Welch, Clarke, Reisinger, Young, Middleton, Spector
At the request of: The Family and Friends of Alvin Kirby Brunson, c/o Aletha B.Brunson
Address: 200 West Grace Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: 804-646-7341
Introduced and read first time: November 17, 2008
Committee Report: Favorable
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: November 17, 2008

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING

November 14, 2008 – Alvin Kirby Brunson Day in Baltimore City

FOR the purpose of declaring November 14, 2008, Alvin Kirby Brunson Day in Baltimore City on the occasion of the 50th celebration of the date of birth of a remarkable man who dedicated his life to the furtherance and amplification of Baltimore’s unique cultural history and the preservation of the legacy of those notable citizens that loved, lived, played, and worked along the historic Pennsylvania Avenue corridor; and providing for a special effective date.

Recitals

Alvin Kirby Brunson, who was born on November 14, 1958, as one of 6 loving children of Abraham and Ernestine Brunson, died on March 30, 2008, a native son of Baltimore City who worked to share his gift of a unique perspective of Baltimore City’s African American history and culture, by expanding his Center for Cultural Education into a cultural museum.

Mr. Brunson, a historian who served as an expert on Pennsylvania Avenue for several newspapers, authored several books on the area, and taught as college instructor a course entitled “Exploring Baltimore’s Black History and Culture”, founded the Center for Cultural Education that operated an African American traveling museum highlighting Baltimore’s black history and culture and provided bus tours of historical black Baltimore.

In addition to the bus tours, Alvin took hundreds of people on his Thurgood Marshall-Billie Holiday walking heritage tours of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, during which he would stop at famous attractions such as the childhood home of Thurgood Marshall and the former site of the Royal Theatre, one of the only places where African American performers of color, like Billie Holiday and Cab Calloway, could perform in Baltimore during the Jim Crow era.

Local schools, libraries, churches, civic organizations, and any other venue for learning were the fortunate recipients of Mr. Brunson’s enthusiastic message that Pennsylvania Avenue’s rich heritage should be preserved, revered, and shared with each succeeding generation. Born a child of loving parents, Alvin Kirby Brunson became a son of Baltimore City. Taken

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.

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1 far too early at the young age of 49, he will be memorialized by the pride he engendered in
2 today's children and the honor he bestowed on black Baltimore's past.

3 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
4 November 14, 2008, is hereby declared Alvin Kirby Brunson Day in Baltimore City on the
5 occasion of the 50th celebration of the day of birth of a remarkable man who dedicated his life to
6 the furtherance and amplification of Baltimore's unique cultural history and the preservation of
7 the legacy of those notable citizens that loved, lived, played, and worked along the historic
8 Pennsylvania Avenue corridor.

9 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be presented to
10 Ms. Aletha B. Brunson on behalf of Alvin Kirby Brunson's loving family, friends, and
11 colleagues.

12 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on the date it
13 is enacted.

Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City