

RESOLUTION

NO. R-26-18

CITY HALL: January 8, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER THOMAS

SECONDED BY:

A **RESOLUTION** urging the New Orleans City Council to undertake formal and permanent public recognition of the lives, works, and contributions of Dorothy Mae Taylor and Dyan “Mama D” French Cole through the naming of streets or other enduring civic memorials.

WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans is built and sustained by the strength of its neighborhoods and by community leaders whose work—often rooted in service rather than recognition—has shaped opportunity, dignity, and belonging for generations; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Mae Taylor was a pioneer whose courage and commitment to community opened doors for countless residents, particularly women and African Americans, to participate meaningfully in civic life, and whose leadership helped ensure that the voices of New Orleans neighborhoods were heard at the highest levels of government; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Mae Taylor’s legacy lives on not only in historic firsts, but in the everyday civic engagement she inspired, reminding this City that progress is driven by people who organize, advocate, and refuse to be excluded; and

WHEREAS, Dyan “Mama D” French Cole was a beloved neighborhood matriarch whose leadership was grounded in care, culture, and accountability, and whose influence strengthened families, mentored young people, and preserved the traditions and values that define New Orleans communities; and

WHEREAS, Mama D embodied the kind of grassroots leadership that holds neighborhoods together—work that is often unseen, but essential to the social, cultural, and moral fabric of this City; and

WHEREAS, as the New Orleans City Council undergoes a transition in membership, it is important to affirm that the City remembers, honors, and learns from those whose lives were dedicated to lifting others and protecting community voice; and

WHEREAS, permanent public memorials—such as street renamings or similar commemorations—serve as lasting educational tools and visible affirmations of the City’s values, ensuring that the stories of transformational leaders remain present in the daily lives of residents and visitors alike; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that Councilmember Oliver M. Thomas respectfully requests and urges the incoming New Orleans City Council to take deliberate and meaningful action to honor the lives and contributions of Dorothy Mae Taylor and Dyan “Mama D” French Cole through permanent public recognition, including but not limited to street naming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that any such recognition be developed in partnership with the families of the honorees, neighborhood residents, community organizations, and cultural historians, ensuring that the memorials reflect the true spirit and community impact of their lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Clerk of Council shall transmit certified copies of this resolution to the incoming members of the New Orleans City Council.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, THE RESULT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.