

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

February 15, 2022

Recognizing Second District Black History Month Honorees

Recognizing Black History Month gives residents of Los Angeles County (County) an opportunity to recommit to honoring Black history, learning the lessons of the past, and building a more just and equitable society. Angelenos can draw inspiration from today’s change makers as history unfolds here in the County. This year, the Second Supervisorial District honors individuals and organizations whose contributions empower their communities to overcome barriers while fighting for justice and equity.

Arvis Jones has been a tireless advocate for children and families in the Second Supervisorial District for her entire career. As the Western Region Director for the National Association of Negro Musicians, she helped ensure that the cultural legacy of Black musicians prospered. In addition, Arvis served as a music therapist for children and those with special needs. She has dedicated herself to finding sustainable solutions to violence in South Los Angeles and supporting victims and their families. For her dedication to helping Angelenos find healing through music and other means, Arvis Jones is this year’s recipient of the Second Supervisorial District’s Public Service Award.

Prior to founding Falcons Youth and Family Services (FYFS), Keith Johnson spent six years in the foster care system, an experience that allows him to relate to and empathize with the youth with whom he works. FYFS empowers young people to become positive, productive members of society through a range of supports and programs. Keith’s mission is to help youth heal from past pain, discover the tools to reshape and

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redirect anti-social behavior, and improve the overall quality of their lives. In addition, he is a foster parent trainer at Los Angeles Southwest Community College; a workshop facilitator at The Rightway Foundation, a foster development organization; and the co-founder (along with his wife) of Southern California Falcons Youth Football and Cheer Organization, which has provided over 1.5 million free meals for children throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As the recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Trailblazer Award, Keith Johnson is to be commended for his lifelong dedication to the promotion of the holistic well-being of the next generation.

Since kindergarten, Camielle Sweets has been a cheerleader at Gardena Youth Football and Cheer, a non-profit organization which uplifts thousands of children and youth through participation in football and cheer, many of whom have established successful careers and become college graduates. Today, as a trainer coach, Camielle has been recognized by program leaders and parents for her leadership and strong work ethic. As an aspiring nurse, she has been part of the Bio Medical Careers Academy since ninth grade and hopes to bring more diversity to the healthcare sector. Camielle Sweets is this year's recipient of the Second District's Young Leader Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership, exceptional discipline, and ray of positivity that she exudes to those around her.

The Compton Kidz Club strives to expose young people to the performing arts through in-school and after-school programs. Students are trained in vocal, dance, digital recording, theatrical and musical performance, as well as the technical aspects of the entertainment industry. Teachers train and mentor youth while utilizing performing arts to champion environmental and social justice. The Compton Kidz Club consists of talented and inspirational teens impacting the world with their talents, life stories, and journeys. These young individuals have performed on Good Day LA, at Lakers games, the Steve Harvey Show, and appeared with Diane Warren and actress Chrissy Metz in a music video tribute dedicated to victims of tragedy. For their excellence in nurturing a passion for performing arts, Compton Kidz Club is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Community Engagement Award.

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The Tree Yoga Cooperative is a Black-founded and employee-owned yoga studio in South Los Angeles, seeking to provide a hub of holistic wellness and community support. Over the past eight years, they have certified over 150 yoga instructors of color. The founders of the Tree Yoga Cooperative provide a safe place for people of color to enjoy this practice and to teach, work, and offer their services. They also look to actively contribute to an increase in representation of people of color, LGBTQ, and varying body types in the global yoga industry. For their commitment to educating and empowering through the transformative practice of Yoga to connect, heal, and build, Tree Yoga Cooperative is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Small Business Influencer award.

It is through the inspiring examples of these leaders and others like them where we are challenged to reflect on our individual contributions towards the work of eliminating the barriers of racial inequity faced by many of our fellow Angelenos. It is through the lessons of history where we are empowered to build a more just and equitable society. It is important to take the time to study – all year round – the history of African Americans, celebrate accomplishments, and understand the persisting hurdles.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

In honor of African American History Month in Los Angeles County, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Arvis Jones, Keith Johnson, Camielle Sweets, Compton Kidz Club, and the Tree Yoga Cooperative for their selfless contributions to the present while honoring the past.

(CAS/GC)