

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association on attaining historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places for the neighborhood of Pontchartrain Park in Orleans Parish

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association on attaining historic  
3 designation on the National Register of Historic Places for the neighborhood of  
4 Pontchartrain Park in Orleans Parish.

5 WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, Pontchartrain Park was listed on the National Register  
6 of Historic Places as "Pontchartrain Park Historic District", recognizing the sixty-five year  
7 old community's significance in Louisiana history; and

8 WHEREAS, the designation was achieved under the leadership of Gretchen  
9 Bradford, the president of the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association, or PPNA, and  
10 the PPNA's Historic Committee; the members of the committee include Carrie Mingo-  
11 Douglas, Willetta Ferdinand, Wilfred Arnolie, Patrick Clementine, Gaynell Lawrence, and  
12 Elder Delerez Perkins; and

13 WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park was built between 1955 and 1961, and the  
14 neighborhood was one of the first suburban-style subdivisions developed specifically for  
15 African Americans to own a home in the segregated South; it is located in the affluent  
16 Gentilly neighborhood, and many middle- and upper-class African-American families were  
17 drawn to the new development; the neighborhood thus became a symbol that the "American  
18 dream" could be achieved by all; and

1           WHEREAS, many Pontchartrain Park homes were sold to World War II veterans  
2 through the GI Bill, creating a neighborhood filled with young families whose children  
3 would grow up together and create a community cohesion that can be seen even today; and

4           WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park is the site of numerous landmark achievements for  
5 the African-American community in Orleans Parish; it contained a golf course designed by  
6 African-American architect Joseph M. Bartholomew which was the first course that he  
7 designed and was allowed to play on; Southern University was established in Pontchartrain  
8 Park to provide higher education for black students in the area; additionally, the  
9 neighborhood is home to Wesley Barrow Stadium, a baseball field where Negro League  
10 baseball games were played; and

11           WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park is truly an iconic, historic landmark in Louisiana  
12 history, and the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association is most deserving of  
13 recognition for attaining historical designation for the area.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood  
16 Association on attaining historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places for  
17 the neighborhood of Pontchartrain Park in Orleans Parish; does hereby recognize  
18 Pontchartrain Park as a true historical landmark in Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere  
19 hopes and wishes that the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association continue to prosper  
20 as they safeguard this historic location.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 55 Original

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