



State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 61

By Representatives Camper, Thompson, Chism, Gillespie, Hardaway, Harris, Leatherwood, Miller, Parkinson, Pearson, Towns, Vaughan, White

A RESOLUTION to honor Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis in celebration of Women's History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the month of March was officially designated as Women's History Month in 1987; and

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the achievements of those women who have paved the way wherein every person has an opportunity to pursue the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of a number of historic, pioneering women, including the awe-inspiring Cerelyn "C.J." Davis, chief of the Memphis Police Department; and

WHEREAS, with over thirty-five years of experience in law enforcement, C.J. Davis was selected by Mayor Jim Strickland in April 2021 as the first woman to serve as police chief for the Memphis Police Department; she was confirmed by the Memphis City Council the following month and officially assumed her current post on June 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chief Davis focuses on holistic interagency wraparound services and transformational policing for crime reduction; her research-driven work is strongly influenced by the practical application of the latest tools in technology, predictive policing, leadership development, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, prior to taking over the helm of the Memphis Police Department, Chief C.J. Davis served with the Atlanta Police Department in Atlanta, Georgia, where she rose through the ranks to ultimately become deputy chief; in this capacity, she led the Strategies and Special Projects Division and was responsible for planning and research, accreditation, the Atlanta Police Leadership Institute, capital projects, and facilities improvements; and

WHEREAS, she retired from the Atlanta Police Department in June 2016 to accept the position of chief of police for the City of Durham in North Carolina, where she made great strides toward improving the Durham Police Department's outreach and crime reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded in her profession, she is a past president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, serves on the board of directors for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and recently testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the matter of police reform; she has also been called upon by *Good Morning America* and CNN for her expertise; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Chief C.J. Davis was named Atlanta Police Supervisor of the Year; featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine* as winner of the Women Rule competition; and named one of Georgia's 100 Most Influential Women by Atlanta's *Women Looking Ahead Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, Chief Davis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in general administration; she is a graduate of the 225th Session of the National FBI Academy and completed senior management training at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in Boston, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, she has experienced training opportunities abroad at the Emergency Preparedness College in York, England, and as a participant in a leadership exchange session with the Israel National Police; and

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WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, she is grateful for the love and support of her husband of twenty-seven years and their daughter; and

WHEREAS, in saluting Chief C.J. Davis during Women's History Month, let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds, as does Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee as we celebrate Women's History Month and the generations of trailblazing women who have built our State and their vital contributions to our country's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: April 3, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Sexton', is written over a horizontal line.

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES