



Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor
Kansas City, Missouri
64106
(816)881-3242

Request for Legislative Action

File #: 26-351, **Version:** 0

REQUESTED MEETING DATE: 6/16/2026

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To be confirmed by County Counselor's Office:

STAFF CONTACT: Winifred Jamieson **PHONE:** 816-522-7273

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DEPARTMENT: Legislature, 1st At-Large

TITLE: A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF CESLIE ANTHONY HENRY, JR. ("CJ")

SUMMARY: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF CESLIE ANTHONY HENRY, JR. ("CJ")

WHEREAS, Ceslie Anthony Henry, Jr. ("CJ"), born on December 10, 1980, was a beloved son, brother, uncle, friend, mentor, artist, and community member whose life touched countless individuals throughout Kansas City and beyond; and

WHEREAS, born to Hyacinth Henry and Ceslie Anthony Henry, Sr., CJ proudly carried forward the

rich Jamaican heritage of his family and shared that heritage with the Kansas City community through music, fellowship, and cultural expression; and

WHEREAS, CJ loved his family, treasured his friendships, embraced a deeply spiritual outlook on life, and demonstrated extraordinary compassion through acts of kindness, generosity, mentorship, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, CJ consistently translated his care for others into action, providing food, shelter, encouragement, guidance, and support to those facing hardship, often without seeking recognition or praise; and

WHEREAS, known to many throughout the Kansas City music community as Vodou, CJ was a gifted musician, songwriter, performer, and founder of the reggae band Jahration and T.A.O., sharing his talents with audiences throughout the region and performing at venues, festivals, and community celebrations across the metropolitan area, including the Ethnic Enrichment Festival, the Kansas City Power & Light District, The Bottleneck, and numerous other stages where he brought people together through music, culture, and community; and

WHEREAS, CJ earned recognition for his contribution to a platinum-certified album by the acclaimed musical group Nappy Roots and further expanded his artistic pursuits through acting, including a role in the award-winning short film “Stay Close to Me,” directed by Josh Doke; and

WHEREAS, from an early age, CJ demonstrated excellence and dedication, earning multiple awards and recognition in forensic competition during his high school years; and

WHEREAS, CJ found joy in the outdoors, appreciated the beauty of nature, embraced life with an adventurous spirit, and cherished the companionship of his beloved dog, Star; and

WHEREAS, while CJ earned recognition as a musician, performer, actor, and scholar, his greatest legacy is found in the lives he touched, the people he mentored, the friendships he cultivated, and the countless acts of generosity and encouragement he extended throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous outpouring of love following CJ’s passing, including gatherings dedicated to sharing reflections, memories, fellowship, worship, and celebration of his life, serves as a testament to the profound impact he had on family members, friends, fellow artists, neighbors, and countless others throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, family, friends, and loved ones will gather to celebrate CJ’s life and legacy through special memorial events in Kansas City, Missouri, including a Reflections and Memories gathering on June 19, 2026, at the O’Hara Event Center, and a Celebration of Life and Memorial Service on June 20, 2026, at Grace Baptist Church, honoring a life lived with purpose, creativity, compassion, and service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jackson County Legislature that the Legislature hereby honors the life, legacy, and memory of Ceslie Anthony Henry, Jr. ("CJ"), recognizes his contributions to the artistic, cultural, and civic fabric of our community, and extends its deepest condolences to Ceslie and Hyacinth Henry, the Henry family, CJ's friends, fellow artists, loved ones, and all those mourning his loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jackson County celebrates a life defined by generosity, creativity, mentorship, service, and love, and encourages all who knew CJ to carry forward the spirit of compassion and community that he so freely shared with others throughout his life.

May his memory be a blessing, and may he rest in power and peace.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NO

Amount	Fund	Department	Line-Item Detail

YES

ACTION NEEDED: Choose an item.

ATTACHMENTS:

Click or tap here to enter text.