

Harris County



Precinct One

RODNEY ELLIS
Commissioner

AGENDA ITEM

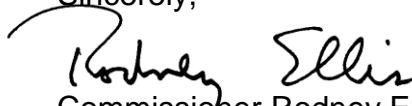
April 27, 2021

County Judge Lina Hidalgo
Members of Commissioners
Court

RE: Resolution in memory of Chandler Davidson

Precinct 1 requests approval of a resolution in memory of Chandler Davidson,
a former professor at Rice University.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Rodney Ellis
RE: SE

xc: Brandon Dudley



Resolution

WHEREAS, Dr. Chandler Davidson was a brilliant, extraordinarily kind, and generous human being with a moral compass that always pointed toward justice. He blended academia with advocacy to make the world a better place, and his impact is enduring; and

WHEREAS, Chandler Davidson was born May 13th, 1936. He served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1961. He was a civil rights activist during his college years, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1961 as well as a master's and Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1966 and 1969 respectively; and

WHEREAS, the influential scholar, activist, award-winning teacher, and steadfast supporter of his students spent a lifetime championing issues of racial equality, social justice, and voter access. Much of his work was done at Rice University, where Chandler spent his entire career from 1966 to 2003. He was instrumental in expanding the sociology department's faculty and research, leading the way for the establishment of the department's Ph.D. program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chandler Davidson's scholarship has been cited numerous times in U.S. Supreme Court opinions and lower court opinions. In a 2011 case before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia over whether a section of the Voting Rights Act was still valid, the court cited two of his books in addition his 2006 U.S. Senate testimony a total of 27 times. When the case was decided in 2012, the volume he edited with Bernard Grofman entitled "Quiet Revolution in the South: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act, 1965-1990" was cited in dissent by the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; and

WHEREAS, his last case, where he served as an expert witness for the Department of Justice, was the Texas voter ID trial. In 2005-06, he served on the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act to advise Congress on reauthorizing the non-permanent provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In that capacity, he was the primary drafter and author of the Commission's 2006 report, "Protecting Minority Voters". The VRA reauthorization passed with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. Even in the later years of his life, he dedicated himself to fighting climate change for future generations; and

WHEREAS, colleagues of Dr. Davidson reflected that his love for the big things – equality, democracy, justice, peace, and fairness – was matched by his care for his family, his friends, and his beloved cats. May his memory lead us to the better world he spent his life building; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chandler Davidson leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Sharon Plummer; a son, Seth Davidson (wife Yasuko); grandchildren Cassady Davidson (husband Torazo Saito), Hans Davidson (wife Julia), and Woodrow Davidson; great-grandchildren Ringoro, Kohaku, and Suzunami Davidson; a brother Tony Davidson (wife Robin); and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Ian Davidson; and a brother, Phillip Davidson;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Harris County Commissioners Court hereby honors

Dr. Chandler Davidson

for his service and dedication to equal justice for all and further extends deepest sympathies to his friends and family.

ADOPTED on this 27th day of April 2021 by Harris County Commissioners Court, Harris County, Texas.

LINA HIDALGO, County Judge

RODNEY ELLIS, Commissioner
Precinct One

ADRIAN GARCIA, Commissioner
Precinct Two

TOM S. RAMSEY, P.E., Commissioner
Precinct Three

R. JACK CAGLE, Commissioner
Precinct Four

ATTEST:

Teneshia Hudspeth, County Clerk
Harris County, T E X A S