

# Resolution

DATE: March 14, 2015

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



## The Matriarch of the Voting Rights Movement

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Bloody Sunday", the Selma-to-Montgomery March and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, held at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of **March, 2015**, on motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, the following Resolution was adopted:

- Whereas**, Amelia Boynton Robinson first went to Selma, Alabama in 1929 with George Washington Carver where she registered to vote in 1932; and
- Whereas**, Amelia Boynton Robinson is known as the *Matriarch* of the Selma Voting Rights Movement and is affectionately called "Mother Boynton"; and
- Whereas**, In 1964, Amelia Boynton Robinson met with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and received his commitment to go to Selma, Alabama to lead the Voting Rights Movement. Soon thereafter, Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference arrived in Selma where a planning headquarters was established and housed in the home of Amelia Boynton Robinson; and
- Whereas**, On Sunday, March 7, 1965, at age 53, Mother Boynton was beaten unconscious and left for dead on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, becoming the national iconic image of the brutal denial of voting rights for Blacks in America, a day now widely known as "Bloody Sunday"; and
- Whereas**, On March 25, 1965, she successfully marched with Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery where Dr. King delivered his famous speech entitled "How Long, Not Long" on the steps of the Capital City of the State of Alabama; and
- Whereas**, On August 5, 1965, Mother Boynton stood with Dr. King as a guest of President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House ceremony and witnessed the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into passage; and
- Whereas**, Mother Boynton's character is portrayed in the heart wrenching movie drama, "Selma," the story of an historical movement for equality and voting rights. The movie won a 2015 Hollywood Oscar Award for "Best Original Song" at the 87th Academy Awards and was also nominated for Best Picture; "Selma" had four Golden Globe Award nominations, including Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director, and Best Actor, and won for "Best Original Song"; and
- Whereas**, Now at 103 years of age and 50 years after passage of the Voting Rights legislation Amelia Boynton Robinson will speak in Dallas Texas of her personal experience working in the voting rights struggle on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at The Black Academy of Arts & Letters (TBAAL) 1309 Canton Street Dallas, Texas 75201; and
- Whereas**, Amelia Boynton Robinson will be a Special Guest for a program entitled "Selma at The West" on Sunday, March 15, 2015 during Morning Worship Services at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 Wheatland Road, Dallas, Texas 75232. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III is Senior Pastor; and

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That** on behalf of the Dallas County Commissioners Court, I do hereby declare March 14-15, 2015 to be:

**"Amelia Boynton Robinson Weekend"**

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015, in Dallas County, Texas

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Theresa M. Daniel".

**Dr. Theresa M. Daniel**  
Dallas County Commissioner, District 1