



# *The City of Minneapolis*

## A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

**By Glidden, Reich, Gordon, Frey, B. Johnson, Yang, Warsame, Goodman,  
Cano, Bender, Quincy, A. Johnson and Palmisano,**

### **Honoring the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder on its 80th Anniversary**

**Whereas**, Cecil E. Newman was quoted as saying, “I didn’t have enough money to begin one newspaper, so I began publishing two,” which is an example of his perseverance and uncompromising integrity that continued even after his passing in 1976; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder has remained an African American family owned business throughout its history, with Cecil Newman’s wife Launa Newman following him as the next MSR publisher for thirty two years beginning in 1976 before handing over the family heirloom in 2008 to Tracey Williams-Dillard, the current publisher and the Newmans’ granddaughter; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder has been a longstanding community pillar and the voice of the Minnesota African American community since its inception in 1934 and still remains a journalistic force after eighty years of publishing; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder was originally known as a communications vehicle designed to unite, educate, inspire, and empower the Twin Cities community in general and the African American community in particular, today reaching the entire state of Minnesota through print and beyond via the Internet; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder has been a springboard for African American talent and continues to nurture and support talented writers and photographers today, helping to launch the career of internationally-renowned photographer and writer Gordon Parks and that of Carl T. Rowan, one of the most honored reporters in the United States as well as a government official in President Johnson’s administration; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder gained notoriety and influence as a media institution as a result of Cecil E. Newman’s commitment to Civil and Human Rights, including his bipartisan advocacy of Civil Rights Laws at the United States Congress; and

**Whereas**, Cecil Newman's work as an advisor to Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D-MN) and Clifford P. Case (R-NJ) helped lead to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and his work in 1967 with then-Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-MN) led to the successful enactment of the 1968 Housing Act; and

**Whereas**, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder is currently the oldest African American business in Minnesota and one of the oldest African American newspapers in the United States;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:**

That the City Council does hereby declare the first day of August, 2015, to be Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder Day in the City of Minneapolis, in honor of its eighty years of outstanding contributions to the city of Minneapolis, the State of Minnesota, and the United States of America.

Passed, this 24th day of July, 2015

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Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved:

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Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest:

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Casey Carl, City Clerk