

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.7

Senators Alexander, Wojno, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, McMorrow, Bullock, Brinks, Moss, Hollier, Bayer, MacDonald and Lauwers offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Motown
2 Records.

3 Whereas, Berry Gordy, Jr. and Motown Records, both musical and
4 cultural icons, have forever affixed Detroit, Michigan as a
5 permanent fixture in the history of music; and

6 Whereas, Berry Gordy, Jr. and Motown Records have both become
7 icons in the socio-cultural fabric of American life from the 1960s
8 to the present; and

9 Whereas, The two record labels, known as Tamla and Motown,
10 were founded in 1959 with an eight hundred dollar loan from his

1 family; and

2 Whereas, That same year, Berry Gordy, Jr. purchased a two-
3 story house on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit; and

4 Whereas, Tamla Records was the first Motown record label
5 debuting in 1959; and

6 Whereas, The Tamla record label was first to hit Number 1 with
7 the song, "Please Mr. Postman," by the Marvelettes, which topped
8 the Hot 100 on December 11, 1961; and

9 Whereas, The Marvelettes began as a quintet in rural Inkster,
10 Michigan, with members including Gladys Horton, Georgia Dobbins,
11 Georgeanna Tillman, Juanita Cowart, and Katherine Anderson; and

12 Whereas, Hitsville, as it was called, served as the site of
13 one of the most phenomenally prolific music production facilities
14 ever; and

15 Whereas, The list of stars who recorded at Hitsville have
16 become household names, including Smokey Robinson and the Miracles,
17 Mary Wells, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The
18 Temptations, Stevie Wonder, the Marvelettes, Martha Reeves and the
19 Vandellas, the Contours, Holland-Dozier-Holland, The Four Tops,
20 Junior Walker and the All Stars, Tammi Terrell, Nick Ashford and
21 Valerie Simpson, as well as Gladys Knight and the Pips; and

22 Whereas, With the addition of other production facilities in
23 downtown Detroit and California, Motown continued to produce
24 musical stars including the Jackson 5, Lionel Richie and the
25 Commodores, the DeBarge Family, Rick James, and the Spinners; and

26 Whereas, Motown's leadership in the African American
27 filmmaking industry manifested in the movies too; and

28 Whereas, Motown was also active in television production with
29 two Emmy winning shows, *Motown Returns to the Apollo* and *Motown 25*:

1 *Yesterday, Today, Forever*; and

2 Whereas, Other Motown television ventures included *Movies-of-*
3 *the-Week*, *The Motown Revue* featuring Smokey Robinson, and *Motown on*
4 *Showtime*; and

5 Whereas, Motown pioneered in the field of personal growth and
6 development for its entourage of stars as it instituted the
7 Artistic Development Department, under Harvey Fuqua, which taught
8 proper decorum, adherence to protocol, and the essentials of
9 exuding class and style; and

10 Whereas, For sixty years Motown Records has identified as a
11 cultural pillar and icon of Detroit; and

12 Whereas, Motown Records, founded by Berry Gordy, Jr. and
13 originating from Detroit, was sold in 1988 for 61 million dollars
14 and subsequently sold for 325 million dollars in 1993; now,
15 therefore be it

16 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
17 body commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Motown Records; and be it
18 further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted
20 throughout Michigan and to members of the Motown Records family.