

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-453

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 18, 2018

To recognize and honor 10 teen authors from Beacon House, who co-authored the award-winning book *The Day Tajon Got Shot*, for their commitment to using their voices to contribute to a national dialogue and to act as leaders in their community.

WHEREAS, in 2015, T'Asia Bates, J'Yona Calloway, Reiyanna Davis, Jonae Haynesworth, Makiya Holmes, Rose McKoy, Najae Purvis, Serenity Summers, Jeanet Teneyck, and Temil Whipple began writing *The Day Tajon Got Shot* through a teen writing program offered by Beacon House in partnership with Shout Mouse Press;

WHEREAS, through creative writing, Beacon House staff, teen writers, and parents dedicated themselves to excellence for and in the community;

WHEREAS, the teen writers met on Friday afternoons to brainstorm, write, review, and edit their work;

WHEREAS, the teen writers were inspired to tell the story of what happens in a community when Black youths are the victim of violence by police;

WHEREAS, in 2018, *Foreword Reviews* selected *The Day Tajon Got Shot* as a “Gold” Book of the Year Award winner, for books written by child authors under the 17 years of age, among books published in 2017 from small, independent, and university presses, as well as by self-published authors;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the In the Margins Book Awards Committee selected *The Day Tajon Got Shot* as its top Fiction winner among books published in 2016 and 2017 that appeal to the reading needs of young adults living in difficult circumstances;

WHEREAS, Beacon House is dedicated to serving youth in the District of Columbia by providing afterschool education and youth development programs to children and families in Ward 5; and

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WHEREAS, Shout Mouse Press is dedicated to serving youth in the District of Columbia by facilitating writing workshops that lead to professional publication and empower those from marginalized backgrounds to tell their stories in their own voices and to act as leaders and agents of change.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Beacon House Teen Writers Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Beacon House teen writers for their creative writing, commitment to excellence, and courage to tell the stories of their local communities.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.