

22R-02

SPONSORS:

Barry Tyler Jr., 3rd District Councilman

Katrina Alexander, Councilwoman at Large

RESOLUTION NO. R 02

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING IRV CROSS FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AN ATHLETE, SCHOLAR, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MENTOR AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN NETWORK TV SPORTS ANALYST**

**WHEREAS**, Whereas, Irv Acie Cross passed away one year ago today on February 28, 2021, in North Oaks, Minnesota;

**WHEREAS**, Irv was born on July 27, 1939, in Hammond, Indiana, as the eighth of fifteen children to Ellee and Acie Cross;

**WHEREAS**, Irv portrayed great potential from a young age, attending Hammond High where he was a star athlete in football, basketball, and track and field, winning the title of Male Athlete of the Year in 1957 by The Times of Northwest Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, Irv also succeeded in the classroom and went on to play football at Northwestern University on a joint athletic and academic scholarship;

**WHEREAS**, Irv led a highly accomplished collegiate career, as captain of the football team in 1960, an All-Big Ten selection, a three-year letterman, competed in track, was named Northwestern's male athlete of the year his senior year, and graduated with a degree from the School of Education and Social Policy;

**WHEREAS**, in 1961, Irv was drafted for the NFL in the seventh round by the Philadelphia Eagles; played professionally for the Eagles and earned Pro Bowl honors in consecutive seasons before being traded to the Los Angeles Rams in 1965;

**WHEREAS**, in 1969, Irv returned to the Eagles as a player and defensive backs coach through the 1970 season;

**WHEREAS**, Irv's determination, grit, and intellect propelled him throughout his career, as he started his broadcasting career at WIBG while still professionally playing football;

**WHEREAS**, Irv was an instant success, gaining exposure in Philadelphia because his sportscast preceded Johnny Carson's The Tonight Show, and in 1971 Irv was hired by CBS Sports as a game analyst where he had a weekly show: The CBS Sports Spectacular, expanding his coverage to include other sports such as track and field and gymnastics;

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**WHEREAS**, Irv made history, becoming the first African American network sports show anchor on the first live pregame show on CBS, and Irv absolutely excelled, paving the path forward for other African American sports anchors;

**WHEREAS**, Irv was on the legendary team with Brent Musburger, Phyllis George, and Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, on the Emmy-winning pre-game show, "The NFL Today" for fourteen out of his twenty-three years spent at CBS Sports;

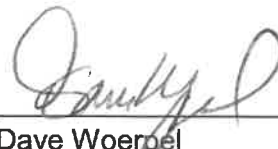
**WHEREAS**, Irv was recognized for his talent in 2009 after being the first African American recipient of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award and in 1987 was inducted into the Hammond Sports Hall of Fame;

**WHEREAS**, Irv's career extended beyond the football field and broadcasting room, as he also served as the Athletic Director at Idaho State, the Athletic Director at Macalester College in Minneapolis, the Executive Director of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Minnesota, and the Executive Director of Love Inc. of Northwest Ramsey County, a ministry that networks existing church ministries and community agencies and mobilizes individual Christians to fill gaps in services; and

**WHEREAS**, Irv is survived by his wife, Liz, his four children Susan, Lisa, Matthew, and Sarah, his grandson Aiden, his brothers Raymond, Teal, and Sam, his sisters Joan, Jackie, Julia, Pat, and Gwen, and his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Hammond that the Common Council on behalf of the citizens of the City of Hammond duly recognize Irv Acie Cross for his accomplishments as an athlete, scholar, athletic director, mentor and as the first African American network TV sports analyst.

ADOPTED this 28 th day of February, 2022.



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Dave Woerpel  
President Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:




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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Hammond, to the Mayor of said City for approval on the 1st day of March, 2022.

  
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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk

The foregoing Resolution No. 02 consisting of three (3) typewritten pages, including this page, approved by the Mayor on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of MARCH, 2022.

  
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THOMAS M. MCDERMOTT, JR.,  
Mayor City of Hammond, Indiana

PASSED by the Common Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
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ROBERT J. GOLEC, City Clerk