

RESOLUTION NO. _____ OF 2013

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SHREVEPORT AS “THE SOUTHERN SOUL CAPITAL” OF LOUISIANA, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

BY: COUNCILMAN JEFF EVERSON

WHEREAS, Shreveport is the largest city in Northern Louisiana and the epicenter of the ArkLaTex which encompasses Northeast Texas, Southwest Arkansas and Southeast Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport is an important cultural crossroads between other cultural centers such as Jackson, Mississippi, Dallas, Texas, New Orleans, Louisiana and more; and

WHEREAS, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame noted that, Lead Belly laid the foundation for American roots music while strumming his guitar and belting out the lyrics down on Fannin Street in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport was and still is a major hub on the “Chittlin” Circuit which refers to the Southern Soul music market. In the late 50’s and early 60’s the night life was brisk and fast in Shreveport, with artists like James Brown playing at Club 66 and Palace Park, two notable and popular African American night clubs located in the Allendale neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport was “the place to be” for people from all over the ArkLaTex region; and

WHEREAS, Stan’s Record Shop was opened in 1948 by Stan Lewis at 728 Texas Avenue in Shreveport, and in 1963, Jewel Records was also founded by Stan Lewis at the same location; and

WHEREAS, Paula and Ronn Records, subsidiary labels of Jewel Records, sold and supplied R&B, Blues, Soul and Gospel tunes that initially enjoyed regional success; and

WHEREAS, these labels signed acts such as John Lee Hooker, Charles Brown, Bobby Rush, Buster Benton, Toissaint McCall, Lightin’ Hopkins, Ted Taylor, Little Johnny Taylor and The Uniques; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, The Carter Brothers landed Jewel Records its first national hit on the R&B charts with a song titled “*Southern Country Boy*” which reached No. 21 on the R&B charts, and others followed; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Murco Records also a Shreveport based record company released Eddie Giles’s “*Losing Boy*” which registered for 5 weeks on the Cashbox Hot 100; and

WHEREAS, Murco Records also had chart success with Reuben Bell and the Belltones, Dori Grayson, Charles Crawford, Ann Alford, Abraham & the Casanovas and Marion Ester; and

WHEREAS, along with other less prominent record labels in Shreveport that catered to this brand of music, Shreveport has quietly played a large role in the musical evolution of Soul music throughout America and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport's Southern Soul music has been recognized internationally by musical anthologies such as Kent Records' Shreveport Southern Soul- The Murco Story (2000), and Alarm Records' Sound City Soul Brothers – The Untold Story Of Shreveport Soul (2008); and

WHEREAS, the Southern Soul Culture entails more than just music, there are a multitude of unique Southern Soul cultural idiosyncrasies prevalent to this area and region which are reflected in the cooking, recreational activities like trail rides, festivals and other celebrations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport, in due, legal, and regular session convened, recognizes Shreveport as the “Southern Soul Capital of Louisiana.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provision of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AT TO LEGAL FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE