

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



JUNE LAGMAY
City Clerk

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Executive Officer

Office of the
CITY CLERK

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

July 26, 2010

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council file

No. 10-1236, at its meeting held July 23, 2010.


City Clerk
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10-1236

CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #55

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



JUL 16 2010

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Phyllis Diller is an American icon and a revolutionary entertainer who broke through traditional boundaries to become one of the most prominent comediennes in Hollywood history; and

WHEREAS, famous for her unique brand of comedy, Phyllis Diller found an eager audience in American women who loved her ability to make fodder of their everyday duties as women, mothers and wives; and

WHEREAS, beginning her career in television in 1952, Phyllis Diller found her calling as the feature comedienne at San Francisco's *The Purple Onion*, a nightclub made famous as the go-to venue for great performers such as the Smothers Brothers, Lenny Bruce and Woody Allen. Her temporary engagement at the club was so popular, it was extended to 87 weeks. The toast of San Francisco's thriving entertainment scene, Phyllis Diller soon entered the television talk show and variety show circuits, exchanging quips with the likes of Jack Benny and Red Skelton; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1960s, Phyllis Diller's bold style and brazen quirkiness qualified her for a spot next to comedy royalty, and she appeared on countless of Bob Hope's television specials and films such as *Boy, Did I get a Wrong Number* (1966), *Eight on the Lam* (1967) and *The Private Navy of Sgt. O'Farrell* (1968); and

WHEREAS, Phyllis Diller was also a feature comedienne on *Jackie Gleason and His American Scene Magazine*, cult classic *Laugh-In* and on a number of other programs landing her own show, *The Phyllis Diller Show*, in 1966, followed by *The Beautiful Phyllis Diller Show* in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis Diller boasts a long list of television and movie appearances, stretching her performance capabilities to drama and theatre, notably as a successor to Carol Channing in *Hello, Dolly!*; and

WHEREAS, a talented writer, Phyllis Diller's autobiography *Like a Lampshade in a Whorehouse* is a favorite for booklovers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, as a philanthropist, Phyllis Diller donated her name and talent to a myriad of causes. She delighted American troops in Vietnam when she toured with Bob Hope's USO troupe. She was the premier star advocating for gay rights in Philadelphia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council commends and thanks Phyllis Diller for over five decades of entertainment, thus commemorating July 17, 2010, the occasion of her 93rd birthday, to be Phyllis Diller Day in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:
Tom LaBonge
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL

JUL 16 2010

ADOPTED

JUL 23 2010

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL