

Proclamation



WHEREAS, Ruby Doris Smith Robinson was born on April 25, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, the second child born to John Thomas and Alice Smith and graduated with honors from Luther Judson Price High School at the age of 16, and then attended Spelman College on a scholarship where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1965; and



WHEREAS, while Ruby was a student at Spelman, her sister, Mary Ann, was a senior at Morris Brown College and had joined a focus group on the inequalities of Black people, of which Ruby secretly attended; she later became a member of the Atlanta Student Movement; and



WHEREAS, Ruby assisted with the planning of protests, sit-ins, and the integration of churches in Atlanta; in April of 1960, she attended a student meeting at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and helped to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, followed by assisting the organization of chapters in Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Albany, Georgia; and



WHEREAS, Ruby and three other students were active in a sit-in in February 1961 in Rock Hill, South Carolina where they were arrested and sentenced to jail for 30 days, the first sit-in to receive national media attention; all students who were arrested served time in jail under the Jail No Bail strategy which she assisted in creating; and



WHEREAS, Ruby became the full time Southern Campus Coordinator for the SSNCC and dropped out of college in 1961 to become a Freedom Rider; she faced mobs, was violently attacked, and spent 45 days in the Mississippi Penitentiary where she was brutalized; and



WHEREAS, Ruby served as the SNCC administrative secretary in 1963, and in 1966, she became the only woman to lead the civil rights organization; by this time, she had spent 100 days in several jails and prisons; and



WHEREAS, Ruby married Clifford Robinson in 1964 and to this union was born one son, Kenneth Toure, who was named after the President of Guinea, who she met during a SNCC tour on racism in West Africa;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Ruby Doris Smith Robinson for a life of integrity and dedication to the fight for civil rights for all citizens, and does hereby proclaim Friday, August 26, 2022 as "**RUBY DORIS SMITH ROBINSON REMEMBRANCE DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Chair to the Commission

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y