

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** Jamila (Mary Ethel Dozier) Jones was born in Montgomery, Alabama on June 5, 1944 and attended nursery school at the Holt Street Baptist Church School, the same historical site of the first mass meeting on the Montgomery Bus Boycott; by age nine, she became a member of the NAACP youth group where she learned about Rosa Parks; and



**WHEREAS,** by 1954, Jamila and two elementary school friends started a group known as the "Montgomery Gospel Trio" that sang in different venues across Montgomery to promote the mission of the Montgomery Improvement Association; she became both an active advocate and activist in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, including walking to school for 361 days; and



**WHEREAS,** Jamila was a student at Alabama State College where she worked to promote voter registration while serving as a lead organizer for the Montgomery Youth Voter Registration Campaign; she relocated to Atlanta in the 1960's and continued her grassroots organizing efforts and formed the Vine City Community School which developed into an independent African American school; and



**WHEREAS,** in 1966, Jamila co-founded an all-female ensemble called the Harambee Singers that blended African-influenced songs with Western forms, including gospel, rhythm and blues, and jazz; she is credited with writing many of the songs including "I Am Black", "I Have Beauty", and she helped solidify the verses of "We Shall Overcome" to what is known as one of America's most powerful songs for civil rights and social justice; and



**WHEREAS,** in 1957, she joined the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation where she helped organize Atlanta Now, a youth performing arts group that was birthed out of the recreation centers; she was later promoted as the director of the Adamsville Recreation Center and retired after nearly 30 years of service; and



**WHEREAS,** Jamila received the Bronze Jubilee Award for her performance career to African American sacred and freedom songs; her other production credits include contributions to the 1987 landmark PBS documentary, *Eyes on the Prize, Freedom in the Air: The Civil Rights Movement in Song*, and the Smithsonian Folk life Festival;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Jamila Jones for being a foot soldier for justice, and celebrates her milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and does hereby proclaim Monday, June 3, 2024 as "**JAMILA JONES APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.



Fulton County Board of Commissioners

*Natalie Hall*

Commissioner

*Eric S. [Signature]*

Commissioner

Attest:

*Janice R. [Signature]*  
Clerk to the Commission