

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 973

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize Kay Bowers on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this General Assembly to honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Kay Bowers of Nashville is one such estimable professional, who has served with distinction for thirteen years as the executive director of New Level Community Development Corporation (CDC); she will soon be taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, early in her career, Ms. Bowers recognized the link between children's ability to succeed in school, their overall health and well-being, and the home to which they returned at the end of the day; and

WHEREAS, since changing fields from education to housing and community development, she has seen firsthand the transformational and generational impact on a family's life, and especially the children's lives, when they are able to have a safe, affordable home in a secure, stable neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, under Ms. Bowers's leadership, New Level CDC has helped thousands of individuals achieve financial stability and assisted families and individuals in securing quality affordable housing and becoming homeowners; and

WHEREAS, because of the strategic partnerships that she established, families and individuals who were formerly marginalized now have safe, quality, and affordable homes; New Level's partners have included the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Thistle Farms and its Magdalene program, The Next Door, Nashville Cares, Room in The Inn, Park Center, and Nashville Rescue Mission; and

WHEREAS, one such partnership garnered the Aubrey Nelson Community Development Award; and

WHEREAS, this year, New Level CDC will begin work on fifty-one affordable townhomes for families to purchase in Davidson County through a public-private partnership; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowers is a founding board member of the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition and worked with colleagues to create the Housing Counselors and Educators of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, she gives back to her community as a member of Fifth Third Bank's National Community Advisory Board and is active in advocacy work with the Nashville Organized for Action and Hope board, A Voice for the Reduction of Poverty, and Welcome Home, the movement for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Ms. Bowers received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Central Arkansas and completed post-graduate work in public health at the University of Arkansas and nonprofit management at Duke University and Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, Kay Bowers exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Bowers has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and a grateful public as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Kay Bowers our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors, as we salute her ongoing commitment to making safe and affordable housing available to all families and their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.