

Resolution of Recognition & Appreciation Mr. Matthew Whitaker

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is always pleased to recognize those who possess tremendous talents and choose to share those talents with the citizens of Caddo Parish for their enjoyment and to inspire Caddo's young people to attain success and distinction in the various endeavors they pursue; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2021, **Mr. Matthew Whitaker**, at the invitation of Bishop Fred A. Calwell, Sr., will share his exceptional talents and inspirational presence during the Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church's Youth Summer Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Whitaker is a prodigious and accomplished musician whose talents far outshine any obstacles he has overcome, his many accomplishments include being the youngest artist to be endorsed by Hammond, the youngest artist to be named a Yamaha artist, the Outstanding Soloist Award from Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Charles Mingus High School Competition & Festival, and the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Competition & Festival; Most Remarkable Young Person on Screen by the Harlem International Film Festival, named a Person to Watch by the New Jersey Record, named one of the 20 Under 20 Performing Artists by Crain's New York Business, named a Futurist Leader by the Root and named a Rising Star by USA Today's 201 Magazine, winning during the Child Stars of Tomorrow during Amateur Night at the Apollo, winning the ASCAP Foundation's Herb Albert Young Jazz Composers Award, touring the United States and abroad and performing in legendary venues like the Lincoln Center, Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Monterey Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival and more, playing with notable musicians from Christian McBride to Jon Batiste, being selected to perform at Stevie Wonder's induction into the Apollo Hall of Fame, appearing on TV shows including Showtime at the Apollo, the Today Show, The Harry Connick Jr. Show, Ellen, and 60 minutes, releasing 2 albums 2017's Outta The Box and 2019's Now Hear This; and

WHEREAS, Whitaker is currently studying Classical Piano and drums at The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School, which is the only community music school for the blind and visually impaired in the United States, having also studied at the Harlem School of the Arts, the Manhattan School of Music's pre-college Jazz program, and the Juilliard School of Music; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session convened this 18th day of May, 2021, that it does hereby convey its deepest and most sincere recognition and appreciation to Mr. Matthew Whitaker and encourages the citizens of Caddo Parish to join us in the recognition of such a Whitaker's achievements, talent and willingness to share his talent and experience to inspire other young people.




ATTEST:



Lyndon B. Johnson
President



John Atkins
Vice President



Jeff Everson
Commission Clerk

Ken Epperson
District 12