

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.7

Senators Alexander, Wojno, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, McMorrow, Bullock, Brinks, Moss, Hollier, Bayer, MacDonald and Lauwers, Wojno, Chang, Geiss, Irwin, McMorrow, Bullock, Brinks, Moss, Hollier, Bayer, MacDonald and Lauwers offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Motown  
2 Records.

3       Whereas, Berry Gordy, Jr. and Motown Records, both musical and  
4 cultural icons, have forever affixed Detroit, Michigan as a  
5 permanent fixture in the history of music; and

6       Whereas, Berry Gordy, Jr. and Motown Records have both become  
7 icons in the socio-cultural fabric of American life from the 1960s  
8 to the present; and

9       Whereas, The two record labels, known as Tamla and Motown,

1 were founded in 1959 with an eight hundred dollar loan from his  
2 family; and

3       Whereas, That same year, Berry Gordy, Jr. purchased a two-  
4 story house on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit; and

5       Whereas, Tamla Records was the first Motown record label  
6 debuting in 1959; and

7       Whereas, The Tamla record label was first to hit Number 1 with  
8 the song, "Please Mr. Postman," by the Marvelettes, which topped  
9 the Hot 100 on December 11, 1961; and

10       Whereas, The Marvelettes began as a quintet in rural Inkster,  
11 Michigan, with members including Gladys Horton, Georgia Dobbins,  
12 Georgeanna Tillman, Juanita Cowart, and Katherine Anderson; and

13       Whereas, Hitsville, as it was called, served as the site of  
14 one of the most phenomenally prolific music production facilities  
15 ever; and

16       Whereas, The list of stars who recorded at Hitsville have  
17 become household names, including Smokey Robinson and the Miracles,  
18 Mary Wells, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The  
19 Temptations, Stevie Wonder, the Marvelettes, Martha Reeves and the  
20 Vandellas, the Contours, Holland-Dozier-Holland, The Four Tops,  
21 Junior Walker and the All Stars, Tammi Terrell, Nick Ashford and  
22 Valerie Simpson, as well as Gladys Knight and the Pips; and

23       Whereas, With the addition of other production facilities in  
24 downtown Detroit and California, Motown continued to produce  
25 musical stars including the Jackson 5, Lionel Richie and the  
26 Commodores, the DeBarge Family, Rick James, and the Spinners; and

27       Whereas, Motown's leadership in the African American  
28 filmmaking industry manifested in the movies too; and

29       Whereas, Motown was also active in television production with

1 two Emmy winning shows, *Motown Returns to the Apollo* and *Motown 25:*  
2 *Yesterday, Today, Forever*; and

3       Whereas, Other Motown television ventures included *Movies-of-*  
4 *the-Week*, *The Motown Revue* featuring Smokey Robinson, and *Motown on*  
5 *Showtime*; and

6       Whereas, Motown pioneered in the field of personal growth and  
7 development for its entourage of stars as it instituted the  
8 Artistic Development Department, under Harvey Fuqua, which taught  
9 proper decorum, adherence to protocol, and the essentials of  
10 exuding class and style; and

11       Whereas, For sixty years Motown Records has identified as a  
12 cultural pillar and icon of Detroit; and

13       Whereas, Motown Records, founded by Berry Gordy, Jr. and  
14 originating from Detroit, was sold in 1988 for 61 million dollars  
15 and subsequently sold for 325 million dollars in 1993; now,  
16 therefore be it

17       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
18 body commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Motown Records; and be it  
19 further

20       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted  
21 throughout Michigan and to members of the Motown Records family.