

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UDC Resolution 2016-_____

SUBJECT: Conferral of Honorary Degree upon Sheila C. Johnson, Vice Chairman, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, and President and Managing Partner of the Washington (DC) Mystics of the Women's National Basketball Association

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees has authority to award degrees and to establish policy with respect to the award of degrees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §315.2, the President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Sheila C. Johnson be awarded an honorary degree for her entrepreneurial skills in helping to establish the Black Entertainment Network (BET) and her pioneering role in business as the first African-American woman with a financial stake in three major sports teams; for her impassioned support of the least served in society, particularly women, through a variety of philanthropic endeavors, including serving as Global Ambassador for CARE, a humanitarian organization that combats global poverty by empowering women, and as a member of Accordia Global Health Foundation's International Council, rallying support for the foundation's efforts to overcome the burden of infectious diseases in Africa; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §315.3, the Board of Trustees must approve the recommendation of Sheila C. Johnson by an affirmative vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members present at the meeting of the Board following the meeting at which the recommendation was made;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby approves the recommendation of the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, with all the honors, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.

Approved by the Executive Committee:

March 22, 2016

Ratified by the Board of Trustees:

April 26, 2016

Elaine A. Crider
Chairperson of the Board




Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Donald L. Rickford
Chief Financial Officer

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TO: The Board of Trustees

FROM: Donald L. Rickford, Chief Financial Officer
Office of the Chief Financial Officer (UDC) 

DATE: March 14, 2016

SUBJECT: Honorary Degree upon Sheila C. Johnson

Conclusion

The Office of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at the University of the District of Columbia approves this request based on the information provided. We do not anticipate any fiscal impact.

Background

The President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Sheila C. Johnson be awarded an honorary degree for her entrepreneurial skills in helping to establish the Black Entertainment Network (BET) and her pioneering role in business as the first African-American woman with a financial stake in three major sports teams; for her impassioned support of the least served in society, particularly women, through a variety of philanthropic endeavors, including serving as Global Ambassador for CARE, a humanitarian organization that combats global poverty by empowering women, and as a member of Accordia Global Health Foundation's International Council, rallying support for the foundation's efforts to overcome the burden of infectious diseases in Africa.

Ms. Johnson is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose accomplishments span the arenas of hospitality, sports, TV/film, the arts, education, women's empowerment and community development. As vice chairman of Monumental Sports & Entertainment and president and managing partner of the WNBA's Washington Mystics, Ms. Johnson is the first African-American woman to have a stake in three professional sports teams, including the Washington Wizards (NBA) and the Washington Capitals (NHL). As a founding partner of BET (Black Entertainment Television), she pioneered modern television programming and created the award-winning program *Teen Summit*, an issues-oriented talk show for the network's youth viewers..

Sheila Crump Johnson
Vice Chairman, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, and
President and Managing Partner of the Washington (DC) Mystics
of the Women's National Basketball Association

Ms. Johnson is being recognized for her entrepreneurial skills in helping to establish the Black Entertainment Network (BET), her continued pioneering role in business as the first African-American woman with a financial stake in three major sports teams, and her impassioned support of the least served in society, particularly women, through a variety of philanthropic endeavors. In each arena in which she has expressed her business talents, artistic instincts, and compassion, Ms. Johnson has proven to be a multi-dimensional leader and a powerful influence who serves as an outstanding example and source of inspiration for the University's students, no matter what their field of study. For representing UDC's values so well, we are proud to honor her accomplishments.

Sheila C. Johnson is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose accomplishments span the arenas of hospitality, sports, TV/film, the arts, education, women's empowerment and community development. As vice chairman of Monumental Sports & Entertainment and president and managing partner of the WNBA's Washington Mystics, Ms. Johnson is the first African-American woman to have a stake in three professional sports teams, including the Washington Wizards (NBA) and the Washington Capitals (NHL). As a founding partner of BET (Black Entertainment Television), she pioneered modern television programming and created the award-winning program *Teen Summit*, an issues-oriented talk show for the network's youth viewers.

In 2005, she founded Salamander Hotels & Resorts and now oversees a growing portfolio of luxury properties, Grand Golf Resorts, three golf and family resorts reaching from the Gulf to the Atlantic—Innisbrook Resort (Tampa, FL), Reunion Resort (Orlando, FL), and Hammock Beach Resort (Palm Coast, FL). The luxurious Salamander Resort & Spa opened Aug. 29, 2013, in Middleburg, Va., in the heart of Virginia's horse and wine country. The latest project, The Henderson, a Salamander Beach Resort will open June 2017.

Currently, Ms. Johnson produces films that convey a strong humanitarian message, with completed projects including *Kicking It*, *A Powerful Noise*, *She Is the Matador* and *The Other City*, a critically acclaimed documentary about the HIV/AIDS crisis in Washington, D.C. Her film, *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, was distributed by Harvey Weinstein and nominated for several Screen Actor Guild awards.

An ardent supporter of education and the arts, Ms. Johnson was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. She also serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of Parsons, The New School for Design in New York, and as a board member of the Sundance Institute, the Tiger Woods Foundation, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, ANNIKA Foundation, and the University of Illinois Foundation, among several others. She was named global ambassador in 2006 for CARE, a leading aid organization that fights global poverty by empowering women, and, since 2011, she has served as a member of Accordia Global Health Foundation's International Council, rallying support for the foundation's efforts to overcome the burden of infectious diseases in Africa

An accomplished violinist, Ms. Johnson earned a B.A. in music from the University of Illinois, and has received honorary degrees from numerous other institutions.

UDC VALUES

*Learning, discovery, and engagement * Academic excellence * High expectations * Student success
Innovation * Cross-cultural and international perspectives * Technological competencies
Collaboration among our internal and external partners * Public service*