

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
UDC Resolution 2018 - 03**

**SUBJECT: Conferral of Honorary Degree upon Harry E. Johnson, Sr., Chief Executive Officer and President, Friends of the Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**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 8B DCMR §315.2, the President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Harry E. Johnson, Sr. be awarded an honorary degree for his significant contributions and accomplishments as a lawyer, entrepreneur, public servant, and most importantly for his outstanding leadership as the former President and CEO of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc., which erected the historic national monument honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 8B DCMR §315.3, the Board of Trustees must approve the recommendation of Harry E. Johnson, Sr. by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (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 approve the recommendation of the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Harry E. Johnson, Sr., with all the honors, privileges, and duties pertaining thereto.

Approved by the Executive Committee

April 17, 2018

Ratified by the Board of Trustees

April 17, 2018



Christopher D. Bell  
Christopher D. Bell  
Chairperson of the Board



## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**TO:** The Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Managing Director of Finance *David L. Franklin*  
**DATE:** April 13, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** Honorary Degree upon Harry Johnson, Sr.

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### **Conclusion**

It is concluded that there is no fiscal impact associated with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) awarding an honorary degree upon Harry Johnson, Sr.

### **Background**

The President, upon consultation with the Faculty Senate, has recommended that Harry Johnson, Sr., be awarded an honorary degree for his significant contributions and accomplishments as lawyer, entrepreneur, public servant, and most importantly, for his outstanding leadership as the former President and CEO of the MLK Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Johnson, Sr., is a small business owner who has dedicated his life and time to serving the community, including civil rights, health education and youth mentoring. His commitment to public service, grounded in education and experience, along with his vision and leadership, serve as outstanding examples and sources of inspiration for students attending the University of the District of Columbia.

### **Financial Impact**

Based on the information provided, we do not anticipate any fiscal impact.

Proposed Recipient of Honorary Degree for  
UDC's Spring Commencement, May 12, 2018

**Harry E. Johnson, Sr.**  
Chief Executive Officer and President  
Friends of the Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Johnson is being recognized for his accomplishments as lawyer, entrepreneur, public servant, and most importantly for his outstanding leadership as the former President and CEO of the MLK Memorial Foundation, Inc., which erected the historic national monument honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Despite controversy and challenges, Johnson remained a calm, focused and inspirational force, raising more than \$100 million to complete the memorial.

Johnson is a small business owner who has dedicated his life and time to serving the community, including civil rights, health education and youth mentoring. His commitment to public service, grounded in education and experience, along with his vision and leadership, 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 his achievements.

**Harry E. Johnson, Sr.** is the President and CEO of the Friends of the Memorial Foundation, Inc. and previously served as President and CEO of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Inc. More than anyone else, he is widely considered as "the man behind the monument."

Under Johnson's leadership, the MLK Memorial Foundation raised \$112 million of the \$120 million needed to erect the memorial. He guided a small team of architects and accountants from design to completion.

Johnson is a career lawyer and also a Partner at the Law Office of Glenn and Johnson. He has previously served as City Attorney for Kendleton, Texas, and taught at Texas Southern University in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and School of Public Affairs. Johnson is also a small business owner who has dedicated his time to community groups and issues, such as voter registration, blood donations, HIV/AIDS education, Boy Scouts of America and Big Brothers.

Johnson has served as National President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the fraternity to which Dr. King belonged, and is credited with enhancing the national image of the organization among fraternity members, business leaders and political officials.

Johnson received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University where he was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Student Bar Association. He completed Post Baccalaureate work in Public Administration at St. Louis University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Xavier University in Louisiana.

Johnson has received a number of recognitions for his public service, including awards from the Congressional Black Caucus, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., and the NAACP. He has consistently been named as one of Ebony Magazine's "100 Most Influential Black Americans."