



SR0977

LRB102 27219 ECR 38853 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Thomas "TJ" Lindsey Sewell V, who passed away on February 26, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, TJ Sewell was born to Thomas Lindsey Sewell IV and Ronita Tubbs-Moore in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 4, 1990; as a child, he joined and regularly attended Greater Emmanuel Apostolic Church, Abundant Life Apostolic Church, and High Point Christian Tabernacle in Smyrna, Georgia; he attended Cincinnati Public Schools and graduated from South Cobb High School in Austell, Georgia in 2009; he continued his education at Kennesaw State University in Georgia and the University of Cincinnati, where he studied business; and

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WHEREAS, In 2005, TJ Sewell worked at a TD Jakes Ministries convention as a personal assistant where he met Melissa Boston, someone who would act as his mentor throughout his life and help him develop his skills and talents; this chance encounter led to his eventual position as senior vice president of Wakanna for Life, a large and reputable minority-owned cannabis/CBD oil company that offers a broad spectrum of health and wellness products; he also found additional employment that varied from restaurant serving to working at the Luxottica Retail North America Headquarters;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, TJ Sewell became a heavily involved board member
3 for Cincinnati For Youth Ministries and was an integral part
4 in the success of the 2014 Light up the Night fashion show; as
5 a response to a calling he felt for mentorship, he established
6 a 501(C) foundation called Black Men Vote in 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, As an adult, TJ Sewell attended Overflow
8 Ministries before he left Ohio and would often return to
9 Cincinnati just to visit his church family; throughout his
10 life, he remained deeply committed to his faith; and

11 WHEREAS, TJ Sewell loved his friends and family and
12 cherished the time he could spend with them; he never missed a
13 family gathering or reunion and was always present and excited
14 for anyone's big moment; he had a big personality, an
15 unmistakable laugh, and a strong embrace; he loved to travel
16 and have fun with his friends; and

17 WHEREAS, TJ Sewell was preceded in death by his maternal
18 great-grandfather, Timothy Tubbs; his grandfather, Ronald
19 (Lynn Johnson) Tubbs; his great-grandfather, James D. Ficklin
20 Sr.; his great-grandmother, Sarah Frances Ficklin; and his
21 paternal grandfather, Thomas Lindsey Sewell III; and

1 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, TJ Sewell was
2 survived by his parents, Thomas (Janae) L. Sewell IV and
3 Ronita (Robert) Tubbs-Moore; his maternal grandmother, Yvonne
4 "Elove" (Earl) Tubbs; his paternal grandmother, Linda Bea; his
5 maternal great-grandmother, Jimmie Dabbs; his brothers,
6 Dominick Tubbs, Timothy Tubbs, Brandon Sewell, and Hunter
7 Sewell; his sisters, Brittany Tubbs, Nadiya Sewell, and
8 Virginia Mundy; his nephews, Brayden Tubbs, Dominick Tubbs
9 Jr., and Bryce Bates; his nieces, Leah Sewell, Lauryn Sewell,
10 and Ja'Nyla Watkins; his uncles, Ronald Tubbs Jr., Ronnell
11 Beech, Christopher (Tiffany) Sewell, Stephen L. Sewell, and
12 Keith Moore; his aunts, Keisha Tubbs, Dominique (Antwan)
13 Allen, Lynnique Tubbs, Anise Sewell, Danielle Sewell, Dortha
14 Moore, and Theresa Moore; his special godmothers, Kara Graves
15 and Christine Moore; his best friend, Dalan Carter; the love
16 of his life, Kevorey Hartwell; his special extended mother,
17 Melissa (Emil) Boston; brother, Tarique Rodgers; his other
18 aunts and uncles; his cousins; and his friends; therefore, be
19 it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
22 Thomas "TJ" Lindsey Sewell V and extend our sincere
23 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
24 him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of TJ Sewell as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.