

City of Boston
IN

CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS CHARLES C. YANCEY & CHUCK TURNER

Robert M. Coard

WHEREAS: Robert M. Coard, President and CEO of Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. died on November 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Coard, before joining ABCD in 1964, held managerial positions at the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Urban League; and was also appointed by Judge Arthur Garrity to the 15-member Citywide Coordinating Council to advise on school desegregation during Boston's school busing crisis in the late 1960's; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Coard, a native of Grenada, became Chief of ABCD in 1968; and

WHEREAS: ABCD's various programs, which materialized under the leadership of Mr. Coard, include Head Start, Education, Fuel Assistance, Health Services, Weatherization, Elder Services, Child Care Services, Career Development, Housing and Homelessness Services, and Food Pantries in several Boston neighborhoods; and

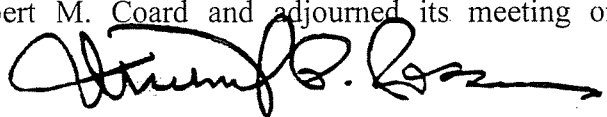
WHEREAS: Mr. Coard's many accomplishments include creation of the Urban College of Boston, the National Community Action Foundation, and the Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Coard earned degrees from Dillard College and Boston University; he completed coursework at Harvard University, the Kennedy Institute of Politics and Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and he received honorary degrees from Simmons College and Lesley University; and

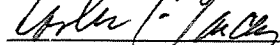
WHEREAS: ABCD's 130 million budget and its 1,000 plus employees enable the agency to fulfill its mission of providing pathways out of poverty for thousands of low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families; Be It Therefore

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, honors Robert M. Coard for his significant contributions to the nation's antipoverty movement and for more than five decades of empowering low-income Boston-area residents; and Be It Further

RESOLVED: That the entire Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, extends its sympathy and condolences to the family of Robert M. Coard and adjourned its meeting on November 4, 2009 in his memory.

By: 
President of the City Council

Attest: 
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: 
November 4, 2009

Date:
November 4, 2009