



Office of the
MAYOR
City of Newark, New Jersey

Proclamation

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND
April 25, 2024

WHEREAS: The **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND** was founded in 1944, by educators, **Mary McLeod Bethune**, **William J. Trent**, and Tuskegee President **Frederick D. Patterson** to provide scholarships for black students and fund historically black colleges and universities. Today it primarily uses its initials; and

WHEREAS: The **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND** today achieves that mission through a range of programs, including the **Lou Rawls Parade of Stars** telethon. Donations have come from such diverse sources as all the royalties from President **John F. Kennedy's** Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Profiles in Courage" to businessman **Walter Annenberg's** 1990 \$50 million to small sums from ordinary Americans; and

WHEREAS: The **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND's** beneficiaries have included such titans as **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, actor **Samuel L. Jackson**, and U.S. Secretary of Labor **Alexis Herman**. In the 2022-23 academic year, it distributed \$68 million in 11,000 scholarships to more than 11,000 students across the nation, with 274 scholarships totaling \$1.1 million in New Jersey alone. In Newark there were 38 scholarships to 27 students, who received \$103,284; and

WHEREAS: The **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND** is one of America's great philanthropic institutions. For eight decades, it has empowered African-American youth across the nation with the tools they need to achieve academic and personal success. It lives up to its motto, "A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste;" and

WHEREAS: As Mayor of Newark, I salute the **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND**, as it celebrates its 80th anniversary today, thank its family for its support of African-American youth in the past, present, and future, and wish it continued success for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAS J. BARAKA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, do hereby recognize:

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

and I urge all residents, employees, and visitors in the City of Newark to join me in this special tribute to **UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND**.

SIGNED: _____


RAS J. BARAKA, MAYOR