

HR 8079

2017

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution congratulating Barry Jenkins and Tarell
3 Alvin McCraney on the success of their film
4 "Moonlight."
5

6 WHEREAS, writer and director Barry Jenkins was born and
7 grew up in Liberty City, a neighborhood in Miami, and attended
8 Florida State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in
9 English and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film from the College of
10 Motion Picture Arts, and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Jenkins directed the film "Medicine for
12 Melancholy" as well as multiple short films, was a curator and
13 presenter at the Telluride Film Festival, is a United States
14 Artists Smith Fellow, and was recently named one of the "20
15 Directors to Watch" in world cinema by the New York Times, and

16 WHEREAS, playwright and actor Tarell Alvin McCraney was
17 also born and grew up in Liberty City and earned a Bachelor of
18 Fine Arts in Acting from the Theater School at DePaul University
19 in Chicago, Illinois, a Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting from
20 the Yale School of Drama, and received an honorary doctorate
21 from the University of Warwick in Coventry, England, and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. McCraney received a MacArthur Fellowship, the
23 Whiting Award, the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Evening
24 Standard Award, the New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award,

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25 | the Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, the Windham Campbell Award,
26 | and a Doris Duke Artist Award, and

27 | WHEREAS, Mr. McCraney was the International Writer-in-
28 | Residence for the Royal Shakespeare Company from 2008 through
29 | 2010, a resident playwright at New Dramatists, and is the
30 | incoming chair of playwriting at the Yale School of Drama and a
31 | member of the Steppenwolf Theatre Ensemble and the Teo
32 | Castellanos D-Projects Theater Company, and

33 | WHEREAS, together, Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney
34 | co-wrote the film "Moonlight," which is based on Mr. McCraney's
35 | play "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue" and was directed by Mr.
36 | Jenkins, and

37 | WHEREAS, "Moonlight," which chronicles the childhood,
38 | adolescence, and burgeoning adulthood of a young black man
39 | growing up in a rough neighborhood in Miami, was filmed in
40 | Liberty City, and captures a portion of Miami's rich black
41 | history, and

42 | WHEREAS, "Moonlight" celebrates African-American life in
43 | Liberty City, one of Miami's poorest neighborhoods which has
44 | struggled with poverty, violence, drugs, and unemployment, and
45 | brings into focus a story that for so long has been neglected,
46 | forgotten, and, in some instances, actively suppressed, and

47 | WHEREAS, "Moonlight" was nominated for eight Academy Awards
48 | by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, six Golden
49 | Globe Awards by the Hollywood Foreign Press, four BAFTA Awards

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50 | by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, three Screen
51 | Actors Guild Awards, and four AAFCA Awards by the African-
52 | American Film Critics Association, among many others, and

53 | WHEREAS, the film went on to win Best Picture, Best Adapted
54 | Screenplay, and Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting
55 | Role at the 89th Academy Awards; Best Motion Picture at the
56 | Golden Globes; Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a
57 | Supporting Role at the Screen Actors Guild Awards; and Best
58 | Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, and Best
59 | Independent Film by the African-American Film Critics
60 | Association to name only a few of over 100 awards earned by the
61 | film, and

62 | WHEREAS, with a production cost of \$1.5 million,
63 | "Moonlight" originally made \$27.8 million in domestic movie
64 | ticket sales, and

65 | WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Almost always,
66 | the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better," and
67 | Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney are two such examples,
68 | promoting a reality that has defiantly maintained a cultural
69 | richness and sense of community, NOW, THEREFORE,

70

71 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
72 | Florida:

73

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74 That Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney are
75 congratulated on the success of their film "Moonlight" and
76 thanked for their contributions to their community and the State
77 of Florida

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
79 presented to Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney as a
80 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.