

THE CITY OF SARASOTA

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION NO. 99R-1229

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF DAVID COHEN, CULTURAL LEADER AND FORMER COMMISSIONER, VICE MAYOR AND MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY WERE NOTEWORTHY AND EVERLASTING.

WHEREAS, on the 4th day of October, 1999, the active life of David Cohen came to a close and it is only fitting that the City Commission, duly assembled, pauses in observance of the passing of a friend, colleague and civic and cultural leader in the Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1910, grew up in Washington, Pennsylvania, was a scholarship student at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and began his business career in Petoskey, Michigan, prior to purchasing the Smith Candy Company, a small business in Sarasota which he expanded to become the Smith Specialty Company, providing jobs for 80 employees with an annual sales of over \$10 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen, a child prodigy violinist who gave his first professional recital at age 15, co-founded the Florida West Coast Symphony and was its concert-master for 21 years and Assistant Conductor for 18 years, bringing in the most famous groups in the world to the International Chamber Series and was recognized as being "the spirit of the symphony from the very beginning," co-founded the New College Music Festival, and was a staunch supporter of the New College String Quartet, in which he played the viola; and

WHEREAS Mr. Cohen was elected to serve on the City Commission for three consecutive three-year terms, first being elected on December 13, 1960, being re-elected on November 19, 1963, and again being re-elected on December 13, 1966, and served until leaving office on April 17, 1970, having the distinction of being selected by his fellow Commissioners as Vice Mayor for two terms in 1962/63 and 1963/64 and Mayor for two terms in 1964/65 and 1965/66; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen can be credited with developing and furthering the idea of Sarasota as the cultural center of the West Coast of Florida and with being the inspiration for the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, the funding for which was approved by the voters on December 8, 1964; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen was instrumental in such other important projects as participation in the Federal Urban Renewal Program, the City's major Beach Restoration Project, the development of Island Park and the Marina, construction of the Newtown Community Center, and the designation of the Tree of Gold as the City's official tree; and

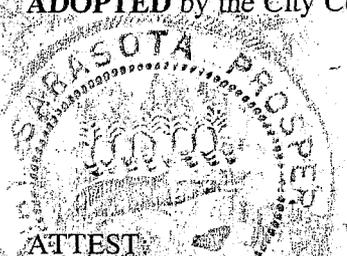
WHEREAS, Mr. Cohen was often called "Mr. Sarasota" and was honored by the renaming of the Symphony Hall as David Cohen Hall by the City Commission in 1971 and the naming of Cohen Way and Cohen Park in Newtown, received a Recognition of Merit at a special concert in his honor during the 1982 New College Music Festival, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sarasota-Manatee Israel Bond Committee in 1985.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City Commission does hereby pause in honor of David Cohen and does by this resolution and public record recognize his dedication to the City of Sarasota, realizing further that his death is a distinct loss to all the citizens of our Community and that he will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Section 2. That the City Auditor and Clerk of the City of Sarasota is hereby directed to spread this resolution on the minutes of the City Commission to remain in the archives of the City of Sarasota as a lasting tribute and to deliver a copy of this resolution, appropriately framed, to his bereaved family in recognition of the respect, love and honor he earned in his lifetime.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota, Florida, this 18th day of October, 1999.



ATTEST

Billy E. Robinson
Billy E. Robinson, City Auditor and Clerk

Mollie C. Cardamone
Mollie C. Cardamone, Mayor