

Proclamation



ABE POLLIN DAY

DECEMBER 3, 2007

Whereas, Abe Pollin is the senior owner in the National Basketball Association, with more than 40 years as owner of the Washington Wizards, and he is the original owner of the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals and Women's National Basketball Association's Washington Mystics; and

Whereas, Abe Pollin brought the Washington Wizards - originally the Baltimore Bullets - to the Washington area in 1973 after building the Capital Centre, and also secured an expansion franchise for the Washington Capitals; and

Whereas, in 1997 Abe Pollin reaffirmed his dedication to the District of Columbia by turning down offers from suburban jurisdictions, to finance and build the Verizon Center (originally the MCI Center) on 7th Street NW in the heart of Chinatown, initiating the revitalization of the Chinatown/Gallery Place neighborhood; and

Whereas, Abe Pollin was born 84 years ago today in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has lived in the Washington area since the age of eight, graduating from George Washington University in 1945; and

Whereas, Abe Pollin, with his wife Irene, created the Pollin Prize for Pediatric Research, administered by New York Presbyterian Hospital; and the couple has been very active with a number of local and national charitable organizations including the I Have a Dream Foundation (personally guaranteeing college education for 55 students), N Street Village, UNICEF, the Salvation Army, and the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue among many others:

NOW THEREFORE I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim DECEMBER 3, 2007 as "ABE POLLIN DAY" in the District of Columbia, and I call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in celebrating Mr. Pollin's many accomplishments and thank him for all he has done for the Washington, DC community.

