



CITY COUNCIL

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CHAIR, STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

CO-CHAIR, STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

July 9, 2025

RE: Referral Request to Rename the Doles Center Theatre to "The Tina Sattin Theatre"

Dear Honorable Members of the Mount Vernon City Council,

I submit this referral request for your consideration and approval to rename the theatre space within the Doles Center as **"The Tina Sattin Theatre"**, in honor of the late, legendary actress, musician, and community pillar, Tina Sattin, born Parthenia Milner.

Mrs. Sattin made Mount Vernon her home in 1957 and left an indelible mark on our city through decades of transformative work in the performing arts. She founded the *Open Cage Theatre* in 1975, both a performance center and a safe space for aspiring actors. It was there that she introduced "Tina's Technique," a unique acting philosophy that explored the connection between performance and personal growth. Her work provided an essential place for countless youth in Mount Vernon, inspiring them to develop character, discipline, and self-expression through the arts.

The Doles Center was the very stage for Ms. Sattin's final revival of *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* in 1992. Thereafter, she continued to coach generations of Mount Vernon and Westchester youth in that very space, shaping future talents like Lenn Washington and influencing icons such as Academy Award winner and Mount Vernon native Denzel Washington.

Naming the theatre after Tina Sattin would permanently recognize her profound legacy and reaffirm Mount Vernon's commitment to celebrating those who uplift, educate, and inspire through the arts. An event

I respectfully urge the Council to honor her legacy by formally approving the renaming of the Doles Center Theatre to **"The Tina Sattin Theatre"** with a public ceremony at the Doles Center. This would be a meaningful tribute to one of Mount Vernon's most influential cultural matriarchs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathlin B. Gleason