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RIA: Cakewalkin' Jass Band
Sponsor: McPherson

Recognizing the Cakewalkin' Jass Band for Nearly 60 Years of Musical Excellence

WHEREAS, The Cakewalkin' Jass Band was founded in December 1967 and has spent nearly six decades preserving, performing, and promoting the rich traditions of New Orleans-style jazz, becoming one of the longest-standing and most beloved traditional jazz bands in the region; and

WHEREAS, through legendary performances at iconic Toledo venues including Tony Packo's Café, Lulu's Storyville Saloon, Ragtime Rick's First Draught, Murphy's Jazz Café, and countless festivals, weddings, community celebrations, and special events, the band has entertained hundreds of thousands of audiences while introducing generations to the history and joy of traditional jazz; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of founder Ray Heitger, alongside dedicated members past and present, the band has earned regional and national recognition through recordings, television and radio appearances, and publications highlighting its commitment to musical excellence and the preservation of America's original art form; and

WHEREAS, for nearly sixty years, The Cakewalkin' Jass Band has served as a cultural ambassador for the City of Toledo, enriching the community through its exceptional musicianship, unwavering dedication, and passion for keeping the spirit of New Orleans jazz alive; and

WHEREAS, the band's enduring legacy reflects the power of music to unite people, celebrate cultural heritage, and create lasting memories for audiences of all ages, leaving an immeasurable impact on Toledo's arts and cultural community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Toledo City Council proudly recognizes and honors The Cakewalkin' Jass Band for its nearly sixty years of preserving and performing the traditions of New Orleans-style jazz and for its outstanding contributions to the arts, culture, and quality of life in the City of Toledo.

SECTION 2. That Toledo City Council expresses its sincere appreciation to Ray Heitger and the many talented musicians who have made The Cakewalkin' Jass Band a treasured Toledo institution, inspiring generations through their dedication, artistry, and love of music.

Adopted: August 25, 2026: yeas 11, nays 0.

Attest:
Julie A. Gibbons Vanice S. Williams

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved: August 25, 2026
Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor

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