

RESOLUTION No.

Urge the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to honor Bill Schonely with the Curt Gowdy Award for his outstanding contribution to the game of basketball as a member of the broadcast media during his nearly thirty years as the voice of the Portland Trail Blazers (Resolution)

WHEREAS, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame honors athletes, coaches, media members and others who have made extraordinary contributions to the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame honors members of the media who have made extraordinary contributions to the game of basketball with the Curt Gowdy Award; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely became the voice of the Portland Trail Blazers beginning with their first game in 1970 and served in that capacity for nearly thirty years afterward; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely called 2,522 Trail Blazers games during his broadcast career, including 84 playoff games; and

WHEREAS, measured in time, 2,522 Trail Blazers games is the equivalent of being courtside for 6 years, 332 days; and

WHEREAS, when he stepped away from the mic, Bill Schonely's 30-year career was the second longest consecutive broadcast career in the history of the National Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely was named Oregon Sportscaster of the Year by the Oregon Association of Broadcasters on 4 separate occasions; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely was three times named Oregon Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association; and

WHEREAS, generations of Trail Blazers fans experienced the game of basketball through the wonderful imagery painted by Bill Schonely's words; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely coined the phrase "Rip City" for Portland's fans, and was nationally featured as the voice of the National Basketball Association's "Fan-tastic" campaign; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely remains to this day a Trail Blazers ambassador and has served as a volunteer or board member for several local non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schonely's thirty years of service as the link between the Trail Blazers and their fans created a body of work that amounts to an immeasurable contribution to basketball; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland urges the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to honor Bill Schonely with the Curt Gowdy Award in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to basketball as a member of the media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Government Relations will prepare a letter and submit a copy of this resolution to the Portland Trail Blazers and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Passed by Council
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Prepared by T. Kovatch
May 19, 2008

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland
By
Deputy