

RESOLUTION #1

**AFT MICHIGAN
71ST CONVENTION
MAY 15, 2010**

**PRESENTATION OF WALTER BERGMAN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD
TO DR. ARTHUR J. DIVERS**

WHEREAS: Dr. Arthur J. Divers has been and continues to be a champion for civil and human rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers is a retired educator (Social Studies Teacher, Department Head of Guidance and Counseling, and Assistant Principal) from the Detroit Public School system after forty-one years of service; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers was the Dean of Students Advisor and adjunct instructor in the College of Education at Wayne State University for many years; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers in 1962 recognized the needs and benefits of being politically active; he won the position of Precinct Delegate and has held the position for 48 years; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers as chair of the “Detroit Cotillion Club Civic Action Committee” had regular meetings with Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh about the lack of diversity on the city’s policy making boards and commissions; these meetings resulted in blacks receiving city appointments; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers continues his quest to have more diversity not only in the city of Detroit policy and decision making but at the state level; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers began to have meetings with Governor William G. Milliken that achieved thirty-one appointments for blacks to state commissions and executive positions; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers created a coalition of activists to form the “Inner City Voter Education Committee” (1972) to educate and register 60,000 new voters; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers, seeing senior citizens as an untapped resource of political activists, formed several senior citizens political action committees around issues impacting the city, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers sponsored public forums to educate the citizens about the election process and candidates running for election; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers was a delegate for the “Eighth Police Precinct City-Wide Community Relations Committee” (2003); under his leadership there was a sixty percent attendance increase at the general meetings and successful fund raising; and

-continued over-

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers in 2005 was appointed to the “Detroit Recreation Department Advisory Committee” representing northwest Detroit where he developed a long term Strategic Master Plan for all parks and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers utilizes his leadership, organizational and planning skills, intense passion, integrity, and love of people to motivate individuals to achieve their maximum and to always give back to the less fortunate; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Divers believes no individual should be the recipient of discrimination because of race, ethnicity, sex, and sexual orientation, social, political and economic status; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the AFT Michigan, at its 71st Convention, goes on record thanking Dr. Arthur J. Divers for his strong commitment to the citizens of Detroit and for his willingness to use his skills in education, leadership, and politics to empower others; and **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED: That AFT Michigan, at its 71st Convention, present to Dr. Arthur J. Divers, the “Walter Bergman Human Rights Award,” an honor he so rightfully deserves.

Submitted by:
Human Rights Committee