

Proclamation

Be it known that

Whereas,

Big Bertha was made by C. G. Conn Music Company in 1922 as the largest drum in the world made with leather drumheads for the University of Chicago Maroon Marching Band; and

Whereas,

Big Bertha is celebrating a centennial anniversary in 2022, and has led the University of Texas Longhorn Band since 1955; and

Whereas,

Col. D. Harold Byrd, a Longhorn Band benefactor, suggested that the Longhorn Band should have a giant drum; and

Whereas,

Longhorn Band Director Moton Crockett, Jr., located Big Bertha at Conn Music Company in Elkhart, Indiana in December 1954, and purchased the drum for one dollar, and drove the giant drum back to Austin, Texas; and

Whereas,

Moton Crockett, with assistance of the staff at J. R. Reed Music Company, reconditioned Big Bertha and presented Big Bertha to incoming Director Vincent R. DiNino in September 1955; and

Whereas,

Caretakers known as the Drum Wranglers and Bertha Crew from the Longhorn Band skillfully maneuver and play the giant drum entertaining thousands of fans, and holds the title of Sweetheart of the Showband of the Southwest; and

Whereas,

Big Bertha has a world following having traveled to Washington DC for the 1961 Kennedy-Johnson Inauguration; the 2005 and 2006 Tournament of Roses Parade, 4 National Championship bowl games, the 2015 London New Year's Day Parade, in addition to hundreds of Longhorn football games, post-season bowl games, television broadcasts, concerts, and parades; and

Whereas,

On this occasion of her Centennial, Big Bertha will enter retirement as the sweetheart of The Showband of the Southwest, and will reside in the UT Athletics Hall of Fame in the north end of Darrel K Royal - Texas Memorial Stadium; and

Whereas, The City of Austin congratulates the tradition of Big Bertha and her 100th birthday, and her participation with The University of Texas Longhorn Band over the past 67 years.

Now, Therefore,

I, Steve Adler, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, do hereby proclaim

October 15th, 2022

as

Big Bertha Day

in Austin.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Austin to be affixed this 15th Day of October in the Year Two Thousand Twenty Two



Steve Adler, Mayor, City of Austin

