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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY: COMMISSIONER GILL  
SUBJECT:

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(q)  
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 2-29 (B)

IN MEMORIAM

RONALD W. BROWN

WHEREAS, Ronald W. Brown of Montclair, New Jersey, is being remembered upon his passing from this life on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Ronald W. Brown was born on October 17, 1945, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to Mollie and Leroy Brown. Affectionately known as "Ronnie" by his family and childhood friends, he was the kind of boy who curiously tested the limits. He often shared stories of licking soap with hopes of gaining superpowers to ward off his father's discipline, getting in trouble for taking too many "creative liberties" while serving as his church's youth choir director, and winning a statewide talent competition for a song he performed while playing two instruments simultaneously—a trumpet with one hand and piano with the other. Whatever he did, he did with passion; and

WHEREAS, Ronald W. Brown graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1963, then received a B.A. in history from Rutgers University. He entered Harvard in the fall of 1967, where he earned two degrees: a Juris Doctorate and a Master's in business administration. But he would be quick to tell you that the best thing he got out of Harvard was his wife of more than 50-years, Geraldine Reed; and

WHEREAS, it's tempting to try to paint a picture of Ronald W. Brown's life with his professional pursuits—his travels to New Zealand and Australia with the Motion Picture Association, his service as the executive director of the Sammy Davis Jr. National Liver Institute, his entrepreneurial ventures with the Reed Brown Consulting Group, not to mention his 20-years with the State of New Jersey. But, these activities wouldn't quite capture the vibrancy of his heart. He was a huge movie buff. Name the movie and he could list the actors, quote obscure lines, and tell you about some cinematic detail he discovered in a book. He also loved to garden and was known for welcoming new neighbors with a ripe zucchini or a plump tomato. One of his greatest loves was going to Belmar Beach. He had fond childhood memories of weekend trips with his parents, sister, and cousins, and would often go as an adult to find his peace; and

WHEREAS, Ronald W. Brown was the consummate student. His mind was a library. It was rare to see him without a book under his arm, and he could retrieve the most minuscule detail to add to his colorful storytelling. Learning was like air for him. Even while undergoing chemotherapy, he obtained a diversity, equity, and inclusion certificate from Cambridge University. And, if you've interacted with him within the last two years, you probably heard him mention his beloved manuscript, *The Seasons of Life*, which he was working on until his final days; and

WHEREAS, above all, Ronald W. Brown loved his family. He'd sport his biggest smiles watching his children grow. He took pride in spending Saturday afternoons shuttling his kids to golf practice as part of Renaissance Jr. Golf. He loved cheering his son Michael on as he ran down the soccer field, celebrating his college graduation, or quietly witnessing the ways Michael cared for him and Geraldine in their later years. Listening to his daughter sing during a gospel choir performance brought him a special joy, as did watching her faith develop and seeing the many ways she would explore it artistically. His feelings for Geraldine were well known and he would often dream up date nights as an expression of his love. Throughout his final season, he'd make it clear to anyone who would listen that his priority wasn't living forever but making new memories with the love of his life during the time he had left; and

WHEREAS, when Ronald W. Brown wasn't wearing his Harvard crimson, you could find him in purple and gold, as he was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was also a member of St. Mark's Church for more than 30-years, where he served diligently in a number of leadership capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ronald W. Brown was an incredible storyteller, and we can only imagine the tales he is telling now during his heavenly reunion with his mother, father, and sister Mary. To celebrate his life, he leaves his wife Geraldine; son Michael; daughter Kimberly, son-in-law/second son Sean (Sam and Hope); and a host of other family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of County Commissioners hereby celebrates the life and mourns the passing of Ronald W. Brown and offers their heartfelt condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Ronald W. Brown.



*Michael J. Richardson*

Approved as to form and legality \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Counsel

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Second by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
COOPER					MERCADO				
GILL					POMARES, V.P.				
GRAHAM					SEBOLD				
JOHNSON									
LUCIANO					RICHARDSON, PRES.				

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was ( ) adopted ( ) defeated ( ) tabled by roll call vote at a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on \_\_\_\_\_

Is Publication Required ( ) Yes ( ) No

Date Published \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne L. Richardson, President