

#43

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. _____
PROPOSED BY: COMMISSIONER RICHARDSON
SUBJECT: _____

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

IN MEMORIAM
WILLIE DWIGHT WEST

WHEREAS, Willie Dwight West is being remembered upon his passing from this life Monday, January 9, 2023, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Willie Dwight West was born on March 4, 1953, in Newark, New Jersey, to Ruth Guest and Willie West. He was affectionally known as "Dwight"; and

WHEREAS, Willie Dwight West was educated in the Newark Public School System and graduated from Weequahic High School, in the class of 1972. He was a star player on the basketball team and later elected to the Weequahic High School Hall of Fame. While in high school, he was a member of the "Decades," an R&B singing group that was like his beloved "Temptations." He loved the Weequahic Indians and the orange and brown. He attended Clinton College, Essex County College, Brandon University and Westminster College via basketball scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Willie Dwight West worked at the U.S. Postal Service for over 30-years. While at the Post Office, he was a singer in the gospel group, "Armed and Dangerous." His musical roots began in the church at seven years old and evolved into R&B and then Jazz. He performed locally and internationally with Amiri Baraka's Jazz Ensemble Blue Ark, The Spirit of Life Ensemble, as well as with countless musicians and poets. He performed in the 1994 Berlin Jazz Festival; a venue at the 1996 Summer Olympics and many other jazz events. For over 24-years, he organized his annual West Family Jazz Cookout, that brought together hundreds of jazz lovers and musicians; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Willie Dwight West fell in love and married Julie Clark and from that union, they had two children: Imani and Jasmine. He also raised his son, Rashad. His family was his first priority, followed closely by his love of friends, extended family and jazz. He regularly visited his aged mother in the nursing home. He and his family traveled extensively and he shared countless memories with his children, nieces and nephews. He was an involved father and uncle. He coached his children, nieces and nephews in basketball, lacrosse and life. In their free time, he and Julie were weekly movie-goers. He was known as the family "paparazzi" for relentlessly chasing them down to capture family photos and videos; and

WHEREAS, Willie Dwight West is predeceased by Willie West (father); Charlie Richardson (stepfather); Sheila Johnson, Johnnie West, William West, Charlie Richardson Jr. (siblings); Amiri Baraka (brother-in-law); and Patricia Clark-Watson (sister-in-law). He is survived by Julie, his loving and devoted wife; Rashad, Imani, Jasmine (children); Ruth Richardson (mother); Amina Baraka (sister); Pamela King (Troy King), Linda Clark, Cornelia West, Sharee West, Sonali Leslie-Gomez (Charles Gomez), Bert Watson and Michael Johnson (sisters and brothers-in-laws); a host of nieces, nephews, extended 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 Willie Dwight West and offers their heartfelt condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the resolution be presented to the family of Willie Dwight West .

Michael J. Polunski

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