

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE May 19, 2020NUMBER 201-2020**TITLE: A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRANCES WILLIAMS.  
(Sponsored by The Orange City Council)**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Orange Township, New Jersey mourns the passing of **Frances Williams**; and

**WHEREAS**, we come together during this time of sadness to pay tribute to and celebrate the life of **Frances Williams** who was a vital and central force in her family and valued member of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, **Frances Williams** was born on May 10, 1940 to the late Jonas and Savannah Cook in Newark, New Jersey; and was the second oldest of seven siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, **Frances Williams** began her education in the Newark Public School System. She went on to earn her associate's degree at Essex County College through the Project Deep program. She later matriculated to Kean College and successfully completed her Bachelor of Science in Social Work. During her educational journey, she also obtained her cosmetology license from Wilfred Academy and became a staple in her neighborhood as a cosmetologist; and

**WHEREAS**, upon Graduation from Kean College, **Frances Williams** obtained a position with the Essex County Welfare Division and remained there until her retirement. While working at the Essex County Welfare Division, she served in various locations including: Bell Street in Orange; 1015 Broad Street, Newark; S. Clinton Street in East Orange; and Rector Street in Newark. She was known to go the extra mile to support her clients and often worked past the end of her scheduled work day; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to working for the Essex County Welfare Division, **Frances Williams** had several other professional experiences which included: working with and transporting children at Day Care 100 in Orange; serving the public as a beautician on Halsey Street in Newark; working as an operator for an independent company housed in the Robert Treat Hotel; working as a bartender at Brandy's; and performing domestic work for various persons. She also continued her cosmetology services up until her retirement mainly as a favor to her friends; and

**WHEREAS**, **Frances Williams** took great pride in her role as a grandmother and an advocate for young people. She could be found on a warm summer day with her grandchildren. She would load her car up with her grandchildren and other young people in the neighborhood and take them on excursions anywhere from the mall to the park. She also loved watching Tyler Perry movies with her grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, **Frances Williams** had enduring community, church and work relationships resulting in numerous lifelong friendships. She was a community focused person and neighbor who orchestrated a variety of activities including but not limited to: hosting coffee-clutches for the late Congressman Donald M. Payne Sr., which introduced and welcomed the current County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo to the neighborhood; and recruiting and enlisting the residents of Central Place to maintain the beauty of Central Place; and

**WHEREAS, Frances Williams** attended St. James AME Church in Newark, New Jersey where she sang in the choir, served as a class leader, in the nursing ministry, on stewardess board E, and on the Pastors Aide; and

**WHEREAS, Frances Williams** passed away peacefully on April 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS, Frances Williams** was preceded in death by her: sisters, Karen Cook and Elizabeth Baltimore; and brother-in-law, Leslie Baltimore; and

**WHEREAS, Frances Williams** is survived by: children, Orange City Council Vice President Donna K. Williams, Anthony L. Williams, Mark P. Williams, and Keith D. Wright; siblings, Gwendolyn Cook, Ruth Cook, Louis Cook, Darwin Cook, and Kevin Cook; thirteen grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; one great great-grandchild; and a host of family and friends; and

**WHEREAS, Frances Williams** was full of purpose and touched many lives with her kindness, compassion and wisdom. Although the light of this shining star has dimmed, her legacy will blaze on forever serving as a source of joy, comfort and inspiration to those fortunate to have known her.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Orange Township do hereby offer sincere condolences to the family of **Frances Williams**. May the warm memories bring joy and comfort in the days ahead.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council urges residents, following the passage of this Resolution to do random acts of kindness towards other in the memory of **Frances Williams**.

**Adopted:**

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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

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**Tency A. Eason**  
Council President