

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE June 3, 2020NUMBER 235-2020TITLE: **A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. RUTH B. MANDEL. (Sponsored by Council Member Donna K. Williams)**

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township, New Jersey mourns the passing of **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel**; and

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

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** was born on August 29, 1938 to Mechel and Lea Blumenstock in Vienna, Austria. Her parents fled Nazi Germany with their infant daughter in 1939 on the *SS St. Louis*, which left from Germany carrying more than 900 Jews away from Nazi terror. Denied entry to both Cuba and the United States, the *St. Louis* returned its passengers back to Europe months before the onset of World War II. Many were eventually murdered in Holocaust death camps, but her family was among those fortunate enough to be accepted into England. The family moved to the U.S. in 1947; and

WHEREAS, the voyage of the *St. Louis* became emblematic of the plight of European Jews who sought safe haven outside Nazi Europe and were unable to find it because of a confluence of factors that included entrenched government bureaucracy, worldwide economic deprivation, xenophobia and anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel's** family experience eventually sparked an interest in politics and advocacy for women's rights. She would go on to attend Brooklyn College, earning a B.A. in English, and earned her Ph.D. in English and American Literature in 1969 from the University of Connecticut. She taught at the University of Pittsburgh and Rider College. In 1971, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** had completed her doctorate in English literature and had no expertise in politics when she accompanied her then-husband to Rutgers University for his teaching position. But when she heard about a fledgling center at the university devoted to women and politics, she joined the initiative as a volunteer, quickly rising to the position of director; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** was a founder and director of Eagleton's Center for American Women and Politics ("CAWP") from 1971 through 1994. She built a national center with multi-faceted research/education/ public service and information programs about women's political participation, a subject previously unexplored. She remained affiliated with CAWP as a senior scholar, teaching and writing about leadership and emphasizing U.S. women's political history. She is the author of numerous publications about women's changing political roles, including *In the Running: The New Woman Candidate*, the first book-length account of women's experiences as candidates for political office; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** served as director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics from 1995 to 2019. During her tenure, Eagleton launched new research and education initiatives in youth political engagement, governors and state executive leadership, science and politics, immigrant political behavior, and ethics in government. The Institute's education programs

Eagleton launched the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Program, providing summer stipends to support undergraduates enrolled on any Rutgers campus. The Institute expanded its state and national outreach and service with visible public programs and social media communications under her leadership; and

WHEREAS, from 1991 to 2006, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** held a presidential appointment to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the governing board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She was named vice chairperson of the Council by President Clinton in 1993 and served in that capacity until 2005. She chaired the task group charged with proposing a governing structure for the new Museum and also led the process to create the Museum's Committee on Conscience, which was established in 1996 with her as its founding chair. In 2009, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** completed two terms on the board of the Charles H. Revson Foundation. She joined the board of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities in 2012 and chairs its governance committee. Among other honors, she has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Public Service by Chatham College and an honorary Doctor of Public Administration by Georgian Court University; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** passed away on April 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** is survived by: husband, Jeff Lucker; daughter, Maud Mandel; two grandchildren and a host of friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel** 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 **Dr. Ruth B. Mandel**. 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 **Ruth B. Mandel**.

Adopted:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President