

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE February 16, 2021NUMBER 97-2021(WO)

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM OF VIVIAN GAUNT TEACHER, YOUTH ADVOCATE, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. (Sponsored by the Orange Municipal Council)

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt, a longtime resident of the City of Orange and pillar of the community, quietly passed away on February 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt devoted her life to public service as a teacher, recreation specialist, youth advocate, community activist, and member of the Orange Municipal Council; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt was an esteemed teacher for the Archdiocese of Newark for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt served as a recreation specialist for the Essex County Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt was a Supervisor of the Orange Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt established a city-side park competition formatted after the Olympic Games which allowed Orange children to compete in various sports events including track, field, and swimming, where they received gold, silver and bronze medals; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Vivian Gaunt founded the Vivian Gaunt Heritage Scholarship Fund, Inc. to provide scholarships to students with average academic performance of African descent that are seeking a higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Vivian Gaunt Heritage Scholarship Fund, Inc. has awarded over \$110,000.00 in scholarships to students from Essex County; and

WHEREAS, many of the recipients of the Vivian Gaunt Heritage Scholarship Fund, Inc. have finished college on the dean's list, obtained advanced degrees, and are gainfully employed; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt has the distinction of being elected as the first African American Council Woman in the City of Orange in 1996. She served on the municipal council for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as a Council Member At-Large, Vivian Gaunt was a staunch supporter of "Female Achievers" and "The Brotherhood" mentoring programs at Orange Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt also developed the "Beautification Project," which encouraged the young and old to pick up litter, wash away graffiti, and plant flowers in targeted areas in Orange; and

WHEREAS, Vivian Gaunt addressed litter in the Orange Community by enlisting support from the local businesses to supply tools, to collect trash, and by motivating Orange residents to supply manpower. She further engaged Orange elementary, middle, and high school students via a

poster contest designed to instill a proactive approach to eliminating litter through changing one's mindset; and

WHEREAS, in light of **Vivian Gaunt's** efforts, the Orange City Council passed resolution 137-2017 naming April 22nd as "Vivian Gaunt Beautification Day" to coincide with Earth Day and to hold a citywide beautification event; and

WHEREAS, **Vivian Gaunt's** leadership and service has continuously lifted and empowered the lives of others for decades and she had pure intentions in helping all mankind; and

WHEREAS, **Vivian Gaunt** is survived by her: daughter, former Council Member April Gaunt Butler; son, Larry Gaunt, Jr.; grandson, Christopher Roy; sister, Carol Robateau; and many other relatives and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township hereby honors the life of **Vivian Gaunt** for her full life of leadership and public service.

Adopted: February 16, 2021

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Kerry J. Coley
Council President