

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

DATE December 20, 2022

NUMBER 493-2022

TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 26, 2022 TO JANUARY 1, 2023 AS KWANZAA IN THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THIS EVENT AND PARTICIPATE FITTINGLY IN ITS OBSERVANCE. (Submitted by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten, South Ward Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson and the Orange Municipal Council)

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is a celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture; and

WHEREAS, every year from December 26 – January 1, Kwanzaa brings people together for feasts, gift-giving, and the celebration of family, community and culture; and

WHEREAS, the name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase “Matunda Ya Kwanza” which means “first fruits” in Swahili; and

WHEREAS, on each of the seven nights of Kwanzaa, families gather and light one of the seven candles on the Kinara, which is a candle holder; and

WHEREAS, once this is done, one of the seven principles of Nguzo Saba are discussed among the family; and

WHEREAS, these principles are values of African culture; and

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa created by Dr. Maulana Karenga who was a professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University at the time (1966); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Karenga was looking for a way to bring the African-American community together, so he founded “US,” a cultural organization, and began digging into African harvest celebrations. He then put several of those together, and Kwanzaa was born.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township do recognize December 26, 2022 to January 1, 2023 as Kwanzaa in the City of Orange Township and urge citizens to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Adopted: December 20, 2022

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President