

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE October 3, 2023NUMBER 388-2023**TITLE:**

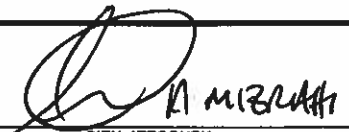
**A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NICOLE WILLIAMS-JAMES.  
(Sponsored by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten, South Ward  
Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson & the Orange Municipal Council)**

**WHEREAS**, Nicole Lynette Williams came into this world on May 10, 1975, in Orange, New Jersey by way of her mother, Monica C. Williams and her father, Ernest Henry (deceased). Nicole grew up in the Father Rasi Projects on Gray Street in Orange. She was, from the start, a child full of ambitions and dreams. Nicole was a happy baby, smart, loved to read and was exceptionally good at math and writing. Nicole loved playing with friends and families as they all gathered around the infamous "D-Circle." Throughout her childhood, she was always a sweet and pleasant little girl. If you knew her, you would love her; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was educated by the Orange Public School System. She attended Lincoln Avenue Elementary School, Orange Middle School and graduated from Orange High School as the Valedictorian of the Class of 1993. Nicole attended the prestigious Upward Bound Program at Seton Hall University and excelled during her time there. During her high school years, she participated in many clubs and activities. One of her main joys was serving as the Boys Basketball Team statistician, which allowed her to develop a close relationship with her coach, Al Thompson. She wore that Athletic jacket with the "O" on it for many years with so much pride. She also participated in the National Honor Society and the color guards of the Mighty Tornadoes marching band. Nicole earned an accounting degree from Northeastern University in 1998. She loved and was extremely proud to be a graduate of Northeastern and spent many years at urban public high schools recruiting students to Northeastern; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was a friend to many. She would strike up a conversation with anyone. Those conversations could last for hours. Her high school friends became lifelong friends, and they have many stories to share, the good, the bad, the ugly and most of all the hilarious. They said Nicole once joked that she did not like people, but all who knew her knew that was far from the truth. A natural extrovert, she struck conversations with people from all levels of society, but she was far more than a conversationalist—she valued relationships and friendships. She was indeed loyal, encouraging, generous and always brutally honest and humorous. Nicole knew how to keep it 100 and she did so in the community, in the schools and in church. She could make you laugh with her quick tongue and wit, but somehow you knew she cared; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole and Andre met around conversations at the "D-Circle" on Gray Street. She was first friends with Andre's sister, Ericka, and immediately took to Tamia, Ericka's daughter. Nicole immediately began to help with babysitting, reading, shopping, schoolwork and more. Andre came to visit his sister one day, and asked who wanted to go to dinner. Nicole responded "I will go!" They went on a date to Sizzlers and that was the beginning of something beautiful and special. After a few years, this love story blossomed and in 2008, Andre and Nicole were married. The rest is history. This love story included family gatherings, movies, going out to dinner, and vacations. Andre and Nicole were dedicated to helping to take care of Tamia as she lived with them on several occasions. One of their favorite things to do was hanging out at "The Lounge" because it was a warm, friendly, and fun-filled atmosphere. Andre and Nicole enjoyed



A. MIZRAHI  
CITY ATTORNEY

their life together and made sure their time together had meaning, even down to the last days of her life; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was initiated into the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Spring 2005. She was Number 27 on the F.A.T.E 38 Line. Her line name was Break It Down because it was always important for her to make sure her line sisters clearly understood the tasks at-hand. Nicole was the line sister that showed up for everyone, EVERY SINGLE TIME. She was a consistent support and beloved *soror* who will be dearly missed; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was a cherished Silver Life Member of the NAACP Oranges & Maplewood Branch. Nicole exemplified an unwavering commitment to the NAACP's mission, dedicating countless hours recruiting others to join their local NAACP Chapter. Her tireless efforts extended far beyond recruitment, as she worked effectively to award scholarships, raise crucial funds, and ensure that every black child she encountered had the opportunity to pursue higher education. Nicole's passion for justice and education came from her Aunt Alma Clay. Her commitment to the Orange Township community and beyond inspired us all to continue the vital work that she so passionately championed. Her life impacted the lives of others in so many ways. Not only will she never be forgotten, but her light will live on in the countless lives she touched and the brighter futures she helped create through her boundless dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was an advocate for education. Former Orange Mayor Mims Hackett appointed her to the Orange Public School Board. She took her job seriously. She visited schools. She sat and spent hours talking and listening to parents. She knew Board policy and procedures. She truly made a difference in the Orange Public Schools and would boldly declare, "I am a product of the Orange Public schools!" She was the youngest person to ever serve on the Orange Board of Education and as Vice-President; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole was a Certified Public Accountant. She held many jobs in that field. She worked for big corporations such as M&M Mars, Prudential, Greenwich Mortgage Company, and Disaronno just to name a few. Her work in accounting was tedious and exhausting, but she always did her job to the best of her ability. Recently, Nicole decided to become a self-employed consultant in accounting. This gave her the freedom to continue working from home after the pandemic. She made many friends at each of these corporations and was counted in for answers and solutions to the company's financial issues and concerns. Nicole worked tirelessly on her laptop even after her diagnosis and up until a few weeks before she passed. Bishop Darren A. Ferguson ordained Nicole as a Deacon at Bethel Baptist Church. He saw what others might not have seen. Nicole loved being a Deacon and took her calling seriously. She spoke up in meetings and advocated for what she believed was for the church. She was appointed Interim Church Clerk and served in that capacity until she could no longer. Serving others in her own unique way was her life's work. She knew who she was in God, and she did not need anyone's confirmation. She took over the responsibility of working with the Church's Anointed Movements and what a time they had. Although it was a serious responsibility, it was really a labor of love. She loved working with Bethel Youth, and they adored them some Deacon Nicole. She made a tremendous impact on Bethel Youth, and they will honor her work with them by being great in all that they do; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicole's greatest joy and pain was caring for her mother, Monica C. Williams. There was nothing and no end that Nicole would not go to care for her mother. She was there in

every way imaginable, whenever her mother needed her. The mother-daughter relationship is a special one and it was evident between Nicole and Monica. Nicole would always say, “Y’all know my Mama is crazy right? But that is MY MAMA!” She was not only supportive, loving and caring, but she was also her protector. If you came for Monica, you came for Nicole and vice versa. Loyal to the end. Words could fill a book on the dynamics of Monica and Nicole. The mother-daughter story that is Monica and Nicole has been written and it will live on in the hearts of all of us who had the privilege to be part of their world. We all got Monica from here; and

**WHEREAS**, On Monday September 11, 2023, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Somerset, New Jersey God whispered to our dear sweet Nicole “It’s time, daughter” and she went to sleep peacefully at 11:00 a.m. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Andre James, her mother, Monica C. Williams, brothers Ernest, Kevin, Takara, Keith (deceased) and Henry, goddaughter Tamia Tyree, godmother Dora Campbell, an uncle Charles Williams (Debbie), an aunt Carol Williams, nephews Kenny Williams and Charles Williams, nieces Casey, Clendon, and Carly; father-in-law Henry James, sisters-in-law Ericka Tyree, Jacqueline Peoples, Jean Peoples, lifelong friends Adrian Cooper-Dula, Hadiyah Sellers, Nakia Vaughn, Desiree Lewis, Julia Barney and Brandice Bonner, many, many cousins, relatives, friends, colleagues and the household of faith; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 18, 2023 Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. proclaimed and named that day as **NICOLE WILLIAMS-JAMES DAY** in the City of Orange Township.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township celebrates the life of Nicole Williams-James.

**Adopted: October 3, 2023**

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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

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**Tency A. Eason**  
Council President