

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

DATE February 6, 2024

NUMBER 49-2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING RANDOLPH C. GRAVES. (Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert)

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township is a diverse municipality with a strong African American community and rich culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century; and

WHEREAS, African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we recognize these champions of justice and the sacrifices they made to bring us to this point, we honor the contributions of African Americans since our country's beginning, and we recommit to reaching for a day when no person is judged by anything but the content of their character; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States; and

WHEREAS, African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military; and

WHEREAS, many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed; and

WHEREAS, like the countless, quiet heroes who worked and bled far from the public eye, we know that with enough effort, empathy, and perseverance, people who love their country can change it. Together, we can help our Nation live up to its immense promise. As we mark the occasion of Black History Month, let us reflect on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans, and us continue that unending journey toward a more just, more equal, and more perfect Union; and

WHEREAS, in so doing this body further recognizes **Randolph C. Graves** and his contributions to the business community of the City of Orange and greater Essex County; and


A. M. Hilbert
CITY ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, Randolph C. Graves has been a member of the Orange business community for 50 years. “Randy” as he is known by everyone, completed his education at the Cambridge Business School, and served in the United States Armed forces during the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Specialist E-4. When he returned to civilian life, he began his career in business with Sherwin Williams Paint Company as a Store. He then decided to take his business knowledge, and experience, and venture into ownership; and

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, Randolph C. Graves opened the first Sandwiches Unlimited Store at 244 Main Street, Orange, New Jersey. With the success of the Orange store, and a growing customer base, five years later he opened the first of two stores in the City of East Orange. He later opened a third store in East Orange at 405 Central Avenue. The “Central Avenue Store” is still serving the East Orange Community; and

WHEREAS, after many years at the 244 Main Street location, Randolph C. Graves decided it was time to move, and expand the business to meet the growing, and changing community of Orange. Sandwiches Unlimited proudly opened the doors at a new location, 23 North Center Street; and

WHEREAS, Randolph C. Graves is a cherished member of the local business community and has been selected as a vendor for the Veterans Administration, the Winston Schools, the McKenzie School System, UMDNJ Hospital, the Orange Housing Authority, the East Orange Housing Authority, and the Newark Public School System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Orange Township honors **Randolph C. Graves** and congratulates Sandwiches Unlimited for being in business for fifty years. The City Council of the City of Orange Township further recognizes February 2024 as Black History Month. The City Council of the City of Orange Township calls upon the Administration, public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the City of Orange Township to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Adopted: February 6, 2024

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President