

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

DATE April 2, 2024

NUMBER 190-2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. ROBERT D. CUNNINGHAM.

(Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert & the Orange City Council)

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township, New Jersey mourns the passing of **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham**; and

WHEREAS, we come together during this time of sadness to pay tribute to and celebrate the life of **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** who was a vital and central force in his family and valued member of the greater Essex County community; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1954 **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** was born to Dr. Robert M. Cunningham and Dr. Matilda Cunningham in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was raised with his two siblings, Dr. Dellena M. Cunningham and William E. Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** attended the Pingry School from 7th grade to 12th grade. He went on to receive his college degree from Tufts University in 1976 and his medical degree from Howard Medical School in 1980. He was a third generation physician and Howard Medical School legacy; and

WHEREAS, during his first year of medical school, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** became a member of the Theta Tau Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. He enjoyed his membership in Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** was married to Margaret J. Cunningham for 22 years. Out of this union came Robert W. Cunningham who is a sophomore at Marquette University studying Biomedical Engineering; and


WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** started practicing medicine with his father, Robert M. Cunningham, MD in 1983 and worked in "The Blue Building" on Central Avenue in East Orange, New Jersey. His father was the first Black ophthalmologist in New Jersey. He continued his father's legacy by practicing ophthalmology at that location during the rest of his career; and

WHEREAS, as a general ophthalmologist, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** specialized in cataract and glaucoma surgery, and he was skilled in performing laser procedures. He proudly served the residents of East Orange, Orange, Montclair, and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham's** impact extended far beyond his practice. He actively served his community through participation in numerous health fairs, where he educated the public about eye health and conducted screenings for early detection of ocular conditions. Additionally, he served as the dedicated ophthalmologist for the Irvington Board of Education, ensuring the visual health of students from kindergarten to eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** was an avid tennis player. He was a member of the Berkeley Tennis Club in Orange, New Jersey. He won many tournaments from his teenage years forward and most recently won the mixed doubles tournament with his wife in August of 2023; and

WHEREAS, **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham** entered into eternal life on March 13, 2024; and

 AMIRAH

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert D. Cunningham is survived by his wife, Margaret J. Cunningham; son, Robert W. Cunningham; sister, Dellena Cunningham; and a host of family and friends.

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. Robert D. Cunningham**. 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 **Dr. Robert D. Cunningham**.

Adopted: April 2, 2024

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President