

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE October 21, 2025NUMBER 443-2025**TITLE: A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. DEBRA JOSEPH-CHARLES.**  
(Sponsored by Council Member Clifford R. Ross).

**WHEREAS**, The City of Orange Township, New Jersey joins family and friends to celebrate the life and achievements of **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles**; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** is a lifelong learner whose decades-long pursuit of continuing education and professional growth has shaped her into the educator that she is today. Upon graduating from The University of the West Indies with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Business Management-Honors, she began her career teaching Principles of Business and Economics in her home country of Trinidad and Tobago. Here she also served as the District Coordinator, training teachers to assist youths in acquiring the necessary skills to start and manage their own small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to her students and her peers, always ensuring that she provided the support and services necessary for growth and success; and

**WHEREAS**, after immigrating to the United States, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles'** work as an educator developed into a passion. She turned her focus to teaching mathematics to students in grades 6-8 and worked at improving student achievement. For her multi-lingual students, she encouraged their inclusion in regular education mathematics, resulting in a marked improvement in their performance on State Standardized tests; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles'** commitment to the educational needs of her students and a focus on student outcomes led her to transition into instructional leadership in 2005 as a K-8 Mathematics Coach for Newark Public Schools. In her role as coach, she modeled effective instruction, led data-driven planning, and provided targeted professional development for educators. She would later serve as Vice Principal at Sussex Avenue School, also for Newark Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** continued her journey as an educational leader at Rosa Parks Community School in the Township of Orange Public School District, first as Assistant Principal from 2011 to 2013, then as its Principal from 2013 to present. In these roles, she has cultivated a culture of continuous improvement, collaborative leadership, and academic excellence. Her mentorship, instructional coaching, and commitment to equity have positively shaped both teaching practices, student outcomes and parental involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** earned her Master of Arts and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seton Hall University, where she has also served as an adjunct professor. Her work has earned numerous accolades, including Superintendent's Award of Distinction and Best Practices Award (NPS 2003), Champions of Active Learning Award (NPS 2004), and the Apple for Teacher Award from Iota Phi Lambda Sorority (2004). She was awarded the Leadership Award by Orange Public School in 2012; and

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**WHEREAS, Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** continues to lead with clarity, compassion, and a steadfast belief in the power of education to change lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Orange Township honors **Dr. Debra Joseph-Charles** and expresses its appreciation for her role in providing exceptional leadership in the school system and greater community.

**Adopted: October 21, 2025**

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**Trisha A. Scipio**  
**Acting Deputy City Clerk**

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**Adrienne K. Wooten**  
**Council President**