

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF
THE LATE FORMER COUNCILWOMAN AND SENATOR KATIE GRAYS DORSETT

WHEREAS, the late former Councilwoman and Senator Katie Grays Dorsett was born in Shaw, Mississippi on July 8, 1932; was the youngest of eight children; and passed away on July 6, 2020, two days shy of her 88th birthday, in Greensboro, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, she attended Shaw Public Schools in Bolivar County, Mississippi through grade eight; attended a private boarding school for high school; earned a bachelor's degree at age 20 from Alcorn State University, a historically Black college in Mississippi; received a Master's degree in Business Education from Indiana University; attended the University of Northern Colorado, Columbia University, Rutgers University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro ultimately earning a Doctorate degree in 1975;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorsett served as Associate Professor at North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race (now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University) from 1955 to 1987;

WHEREAS, following the death of her son of sickle-cell anemia in 1988, Mrs. Dorsett crusaded for education and research on the blood disease; and founded the Triad Sickle-Cell Anemia Foundation, now known as Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency;

WHEREAS, having the distinction of being the first African-American woman ever elected, Mrs. Dorsett served two terms on the Greensboro City Council from 1983 through 1986 during which she advocated for a review of the City of Greensboro Boards and Commissions membership; and was instrumental in the passing of a Greensboro City Ordinance for a Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Program;

WHEREAS, she served as a Guilford County Commissioner from 1990 to 1992; was appointed Secretary of the Department of Administration by former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt; was the first African-American woman to hold a North Carolina Cabinet post and to be named to head a North Carolina state agency; and served four terms in the North Carolina Senate from 2003 to 2010;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorsett was inducted into the North Carolina Women's Hall of Fame in 2010;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorsett was an active community volunteer including the Governor's Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome; Mayor's Task Force on Substance Abuse; Housing Development Clearinghouse Commission; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Triad Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation; Parents Council on Education in the Greensboro Public School System; Young Women's Christian Association; Drug Action Council as President; Trustee of Guilford Technical Community College; Committee/Board Member, National Association of Counties; the Greensboro Citizens Forum; the Emergency Aid Act Recovery Committee for Greensboro Public Schools; Finance Committee for Greensboro Agency Transportation Express; and the League of Women Voters; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

1. That the City Council wishes to express its condolences, and offer its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of dedicated public service of the late former Councilwoman and Senator Katie Grays Dorsett. Her legacy will be remembered by the outstanding contributions she made.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late former Councilwoman and Senator Katie Grays Dorsett as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for her devoted support and contributions to the community.