

## RESOLUTION HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL (150<sup>TH</sup>) ANNIVERSARY OF HARGETT FUNERAL SERVICE

WHEREAS, in 1871, Joseph C. Hargett, a grocer by trade, was the first to establish a funeral service in Kinston, North Carolina to combat racial indignities during end-of-life, and provide employment opportunities for the industrial town's growing Black population after the Civil War;

WHEREAS, being an innovative businessman, he crafted and built coffins alongside his son, Nathaniel Hargett.; and made it a priority to secure burials for those who could not afford it; often accepting garden vegetables for payment of services;

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Hargett, Sr. was instrumental in ensuring that Black residents were able to ride in the funeral hearse, instead of the buckboard wagon that was customarily used for transporting wood and food items;

WHEREAS Joseph's children Nathaniel and Daisy carried on their father's legacy, when Daisy married Nathaniel's business associate John Scarborough and they established the Scarborough-Hargett Funeral Home in Durham, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, John Scarborough, who in his youth was sponsored by Joseph C. Hargett, received the capital needed to finish school and to open a funeral home; being the first black to receive his Mortuary License in North Carolina; founded the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina; and served as Director of the Mechanics and Farmers (M&F) Bank in Greensboro, the oldest black-owned bank in the south;

WHEREAS, the Greensboro location opened in 1922;

WHEREAS, after graduating from National Religious Institute now NCCU and serving in the Army, Nate Sr. owned the first Black casket company entitled Guilford Casket Company in Greensboro operating from 1930 to 1965;

WHEREAS, Hargett Funeral Service moved from Kinston to Durham and then to Greensboro where the company continued to be engulfed in civil rights; and frequently posted bail for African-American students arrested during the Sit-In Movements of the 1960s;

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Hargett, Jr. matriculated through educational institutions in North Carolina, Delaware, and New York beginning at Palmer Institute in Sedalia: earned a Doctorate of Mortuary Science in Atlanta, Georgia;

WHEREAS, 150 years later, Nathaniel E. Hargett, III and Brian Hargett Greene, the great grandchildren of Joseph Hargett, continue the family legacy with the continuous operation of Hargett Funeral Service in East Greensboro, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Greensboro are encouraged to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hargett Funeral Service, a family-owned business that has embodied the spirit of excellent customer service, continues to make Black history and provide bereavement care during the most solemn observances of human existence; and

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

1. That the City Council wishes to express its gratitude and sincere appreciation for the 150 years of dedicated public service of the Hargett Family. Their legacy will be honored by acknowledging the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Hargett Funeral Service.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Hargett Family of Greensboro for their devoted support and contributions to this community.