

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 10, 2017 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 1

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS OF AND HONORING A LIFE OF SERVICE OF
WALTER MARSHALL**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: April 6, 2017
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS OF
AND HONORING A LIFE OF SERVICE OF
WALTER MARSHALL**

WHEREAS, Walter Marshall was born February 15, 1942 in Wadesboro, North Carolina; and died unexpectedly on February 22, 2017 at the age of seventy-five; and

WHEREAS, Walter Marshall believed in education as the path to success; he graduated from high school in Wadesboro in 1961 and from Winston-Salem State College (now Winston-Salem State University) in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education; Mr. Marshall went on to earn a master's degree from North Carolina A&T State University in Intermediate Education in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall furthered his education by earning a Certificate in Studied Language from UNC Chapel Hill in 1969, a Certificate in Exceptional Children's Education from Greensboro College in 1980, and a Certificate in Exceptional Children's Education from North Carolina A&T State University in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Walter Marshall had a desire to help others to be successful; he believed like Hubert Humphrey that "the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped;" and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall worked as a teacher for learning disabled students at Griffin Middle School in High Point for several years, and ultimately retired from teaching; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Walter Marshall became actively engaged in his community through the NAACP with the goal of desegregating the public schools; he was so committed to the cause that he authorized his daughter's name to be added to the list of plaintiffs in a desegregation lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, Walter Marshall worked tirelessly at the local, State, and national levels to improve the community; in 1981, he served as a State Democratic Executive Committee Member; in 1984, Mr. Marshall served as the Jesse Jackson Delegate to the National Democratic Convention; in 1988, Mr. Marshall became President of the NAACP-Winston-Salem Branch, and led the NAACP to file suit against the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, which resulted in the formation of District Elections for both boards; in 1989, Mr. Marshall served as Chairman of the NAACP Education Committee; in 1992, he served as Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education; in 2000, he served as a member of Winston-Salem Branch NAACP Roundtable; and in 2003, Mr. Marshall participated as a member of the Forsyth County Democratic Men; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Mr. Marshall's outstanding service on behalf of the community, he was recognized with numerous awards and honors; in 1986, he was named Winston-Salem Chronicle's Man of the Year; in 1989, he received the National Association of

Education Human Relations Award; in 1990, he received the NAACP's Charles McLean Award as well as the Distinguished Alumni Award from National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; in 1996, he was named among Who's Who in American Education; and in 2001, Mr. Marshall received the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus Community Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Walter Marshall became the first African-American man to serve on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, District A, when he was selected to fill the unexpired term of Mazie Woodruff on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners; during his twenty-year tenure on the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Marshall was a member of six committees: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Piedmont Council of Government (Committee Chairman), Department of Social Services; Legislative Black Caucus (2003-Chairman), NCACC Education Committee, and Member of NACO Environmental Energy and Land Use Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his responsibilities as a County Commissioner and his service on numerous related committees, in 2007, Mr. Marshall served on the National Association of Counties Environmental Energy and Land Use Steering Committee; in 2007, Mr. Marshall also served on the N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program Regional Steering Committee; in 2007, Mr. Marshall further served on the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Environmental Committee, Community Development Task Force, and Education Committee; in 2008, Mr. Marshall served as Vice-Chair of National Association of Counties (NACO) Air Quality Steering Committee; and in 2008, Mr. Marshall served as Vice-President of the N.C. Association of Black County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, as a Forsyth County Commissioner, Mr. Walter Marshall worked hard to help create more transparency in government, he was a strong proponent for eastern Winston-Salem, and he held a deep concern for the environment and made decisions which he determined would protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, Walter Marshall was a devoted family man, who is survived by his wife, Paulette, of 51 years, two children, Krista and Malcolm, and three grandchildren, Ashanti, Ahmani, and Khouri;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby mourns the loss of and honors the life of Walter Marshall for his dedicated service to the citizens of Forsyth County as a Forsyth County Commissioner, a community activist, and a true legend.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution Mourning the Loss of and Honoring a Life of Service of Walter Marshall be entered in the minutes of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this 10th day of April 2017.