

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF
THE LATE MR. AARON WALLACE SHABAZZ

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2022 the Greensboro community lost a beloved civil rights advocate with the passing of the late Aaron Wallace Shabazz;

WHEREAS, Mr. Shabazz received a Bachelor's of Science degree in both Business Management and Communications from Ramapo State College in Mahwah, New Jersey;

WHEREAS, Mr. Shabazz began his career as a senior mortgage collector for City Savings Bank in New Jersey; in 1992, he and his wife Joy, both members of the disabled community, relocated to Greensboro, NC;

WHEREAS, in an effort to highlight resources and agencies to assist people with disabilities, Mr. Shabazz co-founded and opened the Guilford Advocacy Project for the Disabled (GAPD) in October 1992; as Executive Directors, they advocated for the rights of persons with disabilities and cross-disabilities; for his efforts, Mr. Shabazz and the GAPD were awarded numerous awards and recognitions;

WHEREAS, most notably in 1995, Mr. Shabazz received the Distinguished Committee Award from The Greensboro Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities; in 2003, Governor Mike Easley appointed Mr. Shabazz to the North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council; and in 2016, he received the Brant Taylor Barrier-Free Success Award from the Greensboro Partnership Chamber of Commerce;

WHEREAS, in 2001, following the passing of his beloved wife, the Guilford Advocacy Project for the Disabled was renamed the Joy A. Shabazz Center for Independent Living; Mr. Shabazz carried on in his mission for justice and equality for persons with disabilities, continuing to provide services and resources free of charge to over 175 citizens annually; and in 2018, he retired as the Center's Executive Director;

WHEREAS, Mr. Shabazz will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for the disabled community; he fought for inclusivity and total accessibility within society; 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 service of the late Mr. Aaron Wallace Shabazz. His legacy will be remembered by the lives he enriched and changes he brought about.
2. That a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the family of the late Mr. Aaron Wallace Shabazz as a symbol of the gratitude of the people of Greensboro for his devoted support and contributions to the community.