

#56

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY: ACCLAMATION  
SUBJECT:

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(q)  
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E 2-29 (B)

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD SHABAZZ WADOOD

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood of Newark, New Jersey, is being remembered upon his passing from this life on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood formerly known as Edward Sowell, Jr., was born to the late Mallia and Edward Sowell, Sr., on June 15, 1927, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his elementary and high school education in Cincinnati. During his high school years, he was active in sports, especially baseball and was also a Drum Major. He entered the military during World War II where he served in Europe and the Philippines in the Engineering Corp. During his time in service, he was an outstanding baseball player on the Army Baseball team; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood married Helen Pharris in 1947 and again in 1957 and they had one child, Karen. They later divorced in 1960. In 1961, he married Sis. Mildred Wadood and they were married until her death in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood had various employment opportunities, but the one he most talked about was his time at Ford Motors in New Jersey. Sometime later, he became an insurance salesperson in Ohio and later in New Jersey where he specialized in automobile insurance; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood was one of the first converts in Newark to accept Islam in 1955 and was a member of the original Council of the Brothers created in 1956 as a "think tank" for Islamic men who wanted to spread the teachings of the Nation of Islam throughout the greater Newark area. They laid the foundation for Newark to become one of the most productive locations and temples in the 1960s and 70s; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, a year after the Newark Riot, four brothers named El Hajj Hakim Shabazz, Nasir Rahim, Salahuddin Abu Bakr and Edward Shabazz Wadood swore allegiance to work to achieve self-determination and uplift their community based on the teachings of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad (PBUH). They established an insurance brokerage firm called Brother Services which served the city of Newark. Together they kept many young men on track, created jobs and helped with the college expenses of countless youth; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood was active in politics, working tirelessly for the people of Newark. One of his major projects was Weequahic Park. He wanted the Park to be on the same high standards as those in surrounding cities for the citizens of Newark. He was a familiar figure around Newark City Hall and meetings of the then County Board of Chosen Freeholders, now Commissioners. The revitalized newly renovated Weequahic Park stands as a testament to his efforts; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood worked tirelessly on behalf of youth. Around 1984, together with several friends, he co-founded the Newark Youth Golf Club. He came to realize that the characteristics of the game would be integral to the development of people in general and the youth in particular. He was Activities Director from 1984 to approximately 2000. His continuing efforts on behalf of the youth was also instrumental in bringing the First Tee, a program through the PGA, to the golf course. A monument stands on the site in the Weequahic Park Golf Club honoring him. Among his many accolades, in an article written by Barry Carter of the Star Ledger in August of 2016 and updated in 2019, he was dubbed the "Keeper of Newark's Weequahic Park", a name he was proud to bear until his demise; and

WHEREAS, Edward Shabazz Wadood is predeceased by his son Rahim Amin Wadood and leaves behind two daughters, Karen Taylor and Tilmerna Shabazz, a son-in-law, Leon Taylor; five sons Hassan, Aku, Akbar, Ibn and Fard; four daughters-in-law, Wanda Carswell, Gloria Wadood, Raafia Amin-Wadood and Karen Wadood; ten grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and five great great grandchildren; cousins, nieces and nephews, extended families such as the Karriems and the Freemans; and a multitude of friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of County Commissioners hereby celebrates the life and mourns the passing of Edward Shabazz Wadood, and offers their heartfelt condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Edward Shabazz Wadood

*Michael J. Polunski*

Approved as to form and legality \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner Counsel

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Second by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

| Commissioner | Yes | No | N.V. | ABS | Commissioner      | Yes | No | N.V. | ABS |
|--------------|-----|----|------|-----|-------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| COOPER       |     |    |      |     | MERCADO           |     |    |      |     |
| GILL         |     |    |      |     | POMARES, V.P.     |     |    |      |     |
| GRAHAM       |     |    |      |     | SEBOLD            |     |    |      |     |
| JOHNSON      |     |    |      |     |                   |     |    |      |     |
| LUCIANO      |     |    |      |     | RICHARDSON, PRES. |     |    |      |     |

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was ( ) adopted ( ) defeated ( ) tabled by roll call vote at a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on \_\_\_\_\_

Is Publication Required ( ) Yes ( ) No

Date Published \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne L. Richardson, President