

**FORSYTH COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: MARCH 28, 2016 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE EARLINE PARMON**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

See attached

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: *J. Dudley Watts, Jr. cdh* DATE: March 23, 2016  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
THE HONORABLE EARLINE PARMON**

**WHEREAS**, Earline Parmon was born to James and Margaret Cathcart on November 18, 1943 in Buffalo, New York and died March 15, 2016 following a distinguished political career; and

**WHEREAS**, Earline Parmon earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University in 1977, and was later awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University in recognition of her contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon's commitment to her Country was demonstrated by her proud service in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1977 to 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon was a strong advocate for education; she founded LIFT (Learning Is Fun Too) Academy in 1982 to provide tutoring and counseling services for students who were at risk of dropping out of or being expelled from school; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon was fully dedicated to helping the less-fortunate and the disenfranchised and in 1990 she began her political career by being elected to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, where she served ably for twelve years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon broke racial and gender barriers; she became the first African-American woman to be elected Chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the Honorable Earline Parmon was elected to represent District 72 in the N.C. House of Representatives, serving five terms during a ten-year period during which time Ms. Parmon was extremely active and served on many legislative committees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Earline Parmon was a tireless advocate for justice and equality; during her service in the General Assembly, Ms. Parmon was a strong proponent of the State's Eugenics Program Compensation Fund and the Racial Justice Act and she was actively involved in and held leadership roles in the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the Honorable Earline Parmon was elected to serve District 32 as the first African-American Senator to be elected from Forsyth County; and

**WHEREAS**, after one term in the Senate, in 2015, Ms. Parmon decided to leave her Senate seat to work as outreach director with U.S. Representative Alma Adams in the 12<sup>th</sup> District; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions at the local, state, and national levels, however, her legacy has been her efforts to help the voiceless; Governor McCrory called Ms. Parmon “a determined champion for the disadvantaged”; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Parmon was deeply committed to her family and her church; she was married for 47 years to Albert Parmon who predeceased her in 2014; the couple had five children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and she served as Associate Minister of Exodus United Baptist Church;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby honors the Honorable Earline Parmon and the memory of her life for decades of outstanding public service and distinguished leadership.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners as a permanent record of the achievements of one of Forsyth County’s most distinguished citizens, and that the original be delivered to her family with sincere appreciation.

Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.