

PROCLAMATION
IN MEMORY OF JAQUITA (JAQUI) MAE ROBINSON WILLIS

WHEREAS, Jaquita Mae Robinson Willis was born August 14, 1947, in Des Moines, Iowa, to William C. Robinson and Geneva Robinson (Volineer), the oldest of four children; and

WHEREAS, Jaqui as she was known went on to graduate from East High School in Des Moines, Iowa in 1946. She received her B.A. from Tarkio College in Missouri in 1970 and her M.L.S. from Western Michigan University in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Jaqui was married for 45 years to John P. Willis: She was a devoted wife and loving mother to her two children, Leigh Willis (Aliya) of Atlanta and Geneva Willis of Oberlin and was known to cherish every moment with her two granddaughters, Khalilah Wimbley and Layla Willis; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 she and her husband John Willis moved to Oberlin, and for the next decade she served as librarian at Admiral King High School in Lorain. In 1988, she became Library Supervisor for the Lorain City Schools, and she later became Library Supervisor for the Elyria City Schools. Since 2000, she has been a library media specialist with the Strongsville City Schools; and

WHEREAS, Jaqui was a dedicated member of Rust United Methodist Church and served in several capacities such as lay leader, treasurer, and communion steward; and

WHEREAS, Jaqui had many accomplishments and awards in her lifetime. One of her most memorable moments occurred when she was honored by Oberlin College with the 2008 Award for Distinguished Service to the Community. She served on countless boards, commissions, and committees for the City of Oberlin and abroad. Those for the City include: the Citizens Cable Advisory Board (1987-1991), the Minority Business Enterprise Board (1991-1992), the Recreation Commission (1999-2014), and she was currently elected as the Co-Chair of the Human Relations Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Jaqui was (and remains in our hearts) a valued member of the Oberlin community. She was a model citizen who devoted her life to serving and who did so with an amazing spirit.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ronnie J. Rimbart, Mayor and President of Oberlin City Council, share in the sorrow of her death on June 15, 2017, and express to her family and friends, our heartfelt sympathy while remembering and appreciating with respect and affection Jaqui's sense of joy and optimism and faith in the potential of human goodness. As well as her seemingly boundless—dedication to making Oberlin a better place for all its residents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, to be affixed hereto, this 21st day of June 2017.

Ronnie J. Rimbart, Mayor/President of Council