

**Resolution Number 2324-17**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE CITY OF SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA HONORING THE LIFE OF PARRIS D. CARSON FOR HIS FAITHFUL COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION IN ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF SUFFOLK AND BEYOND**

**WHEREAS**, Parris D. Carson ("Parris") attended East Suffolk High School, and later attended Elizabeth City State University where he graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, attended Virginia State University where he graduated in 1974 with a Master in Education, and then to the University of Virginia where he received a Certificate of Advanced Studies in 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, while attending Elizabeth City State University, Parris pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and was instrumental in shaping the lives of many young men and leading them to the brotherhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Parris was passionate about education and supporting young men and women to pursue their dreams; and

**WHEREAS**, Parris had a distinguished career as an educator with Suffolk Public Schools, Portsmouth Public Schools and Isle of Wight County Public Schools. He taught Science at East Suffolk High School (1964-1965); at John F. Kennedy High School (1965-1969); at Churchland Junior High School and Manor High School; (1969-1979); became the first African American principal at the newly built Smithfield High School (1979-1988); was principal at John F. Kennedy High School (1988-1990); became the first principal at the newly constructed Nansemond River High School (1990-1991); and then Assistant Superintendent for Suffolk Public Schools (1991-1997); and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his distinguished career in public education, Parris was a Southern Board Peanut District and Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) basketball referee as well as a neutral observer for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, following his retirement from Suffolk Public Schools, Parris could be found on the golf course in rain, sleet, or snow throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, Parris was married to Winne (Sears) Carson for fifty-six years; and

**WHEREAS**, by his stellar career in public education and his involvement in civic and recreational activities in the City of Suffolk and beyond, Parris touched the lives of countless individuals who will be forever indebted to him for his words of encouragement and unfailing devotion that allowed them to reach their fullest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his life, Parris exemplified a quote by John C. Maxwell, "Leading well is not about enriching yourself — it's about empowering others"; and

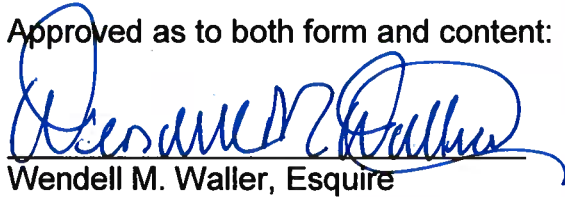
**WHEREAS**, Parris departed this earthly life on October 12, 2023, after having fought a good fight and finishing his course.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the School Board for the City of Suffolk, Virginia, honors the life of Parris D. Carson for his faithful commitment and dedication in enriching the lives of children in the City of Suffolk, Virginia and beyond.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

TESTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Approved as to both form and content:



Wendell M. Waller, Esquire  
School Board Attorney