



## CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

### RESOLUTION NO. 7-2023

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. ROBISON BY RENAMING THE LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER AS THE JOSEPH R. ROBISON LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER.**

*Sponsored by the President at the request of the Administration.*

**WHEREAS**, the Laurel City Council adopted Resolution No. 7-21 on July 26, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of this Resolution created the **CITY OF LAUREL NAMING POLICY FOR PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS, STREETS, ALLEYWAYS AND OTHER CITY ASSETS**; and

**WHEREAS**, the policy requires certain criteria under **Number IV. Policy, Letter F** be followed, which was completed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration followed the policy under **Number VI. Naming Criteria, Parks, City-Owned Buildings and Recreational Facilities**; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful review, and meeting the above policy requirements, it is recommended to the Laurel City Council that former Mayor, the Honorable Joseph R. Robison be honored with the re-naming of the Laurel Municipal Center to the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the policy states that the Laurel City Council shall have the final authority to name, co-name and re-name City amenities, buildings, parks, streets, alleys and recreational areas and facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Joseph R. "Joe" Robison was an unselfish and loyal individual, who was committed to his God, Family, State, County and most of all the City of Laurel; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe was born on January 23, 1933, at 222 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Laurel, Maryland, to Walter and Mildred Robison. Joe was the youngest of five children; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe was a member of St. Mary of the Mills Roman Catholic Church where his family worshipped since the late 1800's. Joe continued to be a member of the St. Mary's until his passing; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1952 Joe graduated from the old Laurel High School on Montgomery Street. He entered the United States Army after high school and served at Fort Knox during the Korean War, and was a member of both the American Legion and the Korean War Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, after his service to his Country, he married his high school sweetheart, Joan, on May 13, 1955. Joe worked at the United States Postal Service for over 36 years, beginning as a Clerk at the Laurel Post Office, and retired from Postal Headquarters in 1988 as a Quality Control Specialist; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe's community service was endless, joining Maryland State Forestry Department at the age of 14, the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department in 1951, Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad in 1952, served on the Board of Directors for the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad, including Chairman of the Board in 1958-1959, served as Chief of Laurel Volunteer Fire Department in 1968, President of the Prince George's County Volunteer Firemen's Association in 1968, President Maryland Fire Chief's Association 1973, President Maryland State Firemen's Association in 1988, was elected Laurel City Councilmember, Ward 1 from 1988-1990, elected Mayor 1990-1994, served thirty-three years on the Prince George's County Fire Commission, including years as the Chairman, Chairman City of Laurel Emergency Services Commission, Co-Chair, City of Laurel 125 Anniversary Committee, to name just a few; and

**WHEREAS**, he served on many committees at the State, County and City of Laurel, serving on the Laurel Civil Defense, Red Cross Disaster Committee, Historical and Archives committee MSFA, City of Laurel Charter Review Committee, Member Laurel Historic District Commission, Board of Trustees Chairman 1993-2002 to the Laurel Museum, Member Laurel Historical Society, Standards Committee, PGCVFRA, Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee, Prince George's County Council Task Force on Fire Service for County, MFRI Board of Directors, Subcommittee on Testing and Evaluation for MFRI, City Budget Review Committee, President of the Greater Laurel-Beltsville Chapter of the American Red Cross, and many, many other committees; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph R. Robison has been recognized by many different organizations to include the following: Received Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for leadership and community involvement, President's Trophy presented by the Independent Insurance Agents Association, Karl A. Young Memorial Trophy as Outstanding Firemen of the Year, Prince George's County Executive Certificate of Public Service Award, Buck Gladhill Trophy for Outstanding Fireman of the Year, MSFA, LVFD President's Award for Service, Honored by Rotary Club with their Four-Way Test Award, Silver Medal of Valor from the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, Laurel Municipal Center Room Dedication, Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to State, 50 year Volunteer Service Tribute for Joe and Joan by the Laurel Historical Society, to name just a few of many; and

**WHEREAS**, during Mayor Robison's tenure as Mayor he began the Mandatory Recycling Program in 1990, one of the first programs of its kind in Prince George's County, authorized the use of the Factory House by the Laurel Historical Society as a museum in 1991, established the City's Task Force on Drugs, Violence and Crime, Task Force on Homelessness in the City, established the Stephen P. Turney Sports Complex, Built the City's Community Center, and purchased and renovated the present Laurel Municipal Center on Sandy Spring Road; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe and Joan had two daughters, Bette Anne born October 1958 and Mitzi born December 1959. At the time of Joe's passing, he and Joan had been married for 65 years, had six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the re-naming of the Laurel Municipal Center should move forward due to the City receiving two applications, one from Mayor Craig A. Moe dated September 25, 2022, and one from The Laurel History Boys, Inc. dated November 8, 2022, finding both in proper order, and filled out fully with attached documents to support the re-naming; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the Honorable Joseph R. Robison, a man of high integrity, dedication and service to the State, County and City of Laurel is well deserving of a City building being re-named after his long years of service to community of Laurel, for his many positive measures he took to preserve the history of Laurel. His dedicated hard work on behalf of the City of Laurel residents and businesses, and his vision towards insuring Laurel was prepared and would meet any challenge in City government that may arise; and





**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that after careful review, and following the City of Laurel Naming policy, the Laurel Municipal Center is hereby re-named the **Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center**.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.


**ADOPTED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

  
SARA A. GREEN, CMC  
City Clerk

  
BRENCIS D. SMITH  
President of the City Council

**APPROVED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

  
CRAIG A. MOE  
Mayor