

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF KENNETH ROBERTSON  
TO THE PLANNING BOARD**

- WHEREAS,** Kenneth A. Robertson, born in Brookhaven, Mississippi but who always considered himself a native of the great Pelican State of Louisiana, and a long-time resident of the City of Plainfield, Union County, and the great State of New Jersey; and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson called himself the skinniest high school split end in Louisiana football history, and
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson, was originally appointed to the Plainfield Planning Board in 1985, and served the Board and the City faithfully for 31 years until he submitted his resignation on April 30, 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson served as Chairman of the Planning Board for the vast majority of those years until December 31, 2013; and displayed an unsurpassed commitment to sound planning for all of those years, and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson served as mentor to the Planning Director and Division, and Planning Board staff at all times during his appointment, educating staff with his technical knowledge of all things planning, of political dynamics, his love of census data and its use in the planning field, of his relevant life experiences, and even teaching staff early on in the EXCEL program so that staff could improve its efficiency, and
- WHEREAS** Kenneth Robertson displayed an uncommon commitment and an ethic that cannot be forgotten, and
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson approached his volunteer work on the Planning Board as if it was a full time commitment not only always being fully prepared at all meetings, but going over and above on his preparation and follow up on all applications, using his excellent grammatical skills to assure accuracy in every respect, and Robert's Rules to run every meeting; and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson's appointment survived and was carried forward through ?? mayoral administrations, showing his ability to maneuver the demanding Plainfield political landscape with expertise and diplomacy, and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson was a natural leader, forging consensus among Board members, and leading the Planning Board to be a vital, functional and respected body; and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson, despite limited budgets and difficult circumstances, led the Board in 1996-2002 to adopt its first comprehensive master plan in thirty years, then turned around and again led the Board through the master plan reexamination process in 2009, and in both times persisted through the grueling process of developing the land use ordinance to implement those master plans; and
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson is considered the father of the Capital Improvement Program in Plainfield by conducting multiple Board hearings on an annual basis listening to Department Directors present their needs to the Planning Board so that the Board could provide the City Council with sound capital budget recommendations, and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson was a truly deserving recipient of the 2016 New Jersey Planning Officials Achievement in Planning Award; and,
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson welcomed Ron Scott Bey, his replacement as Planning Board Chairman, with the words to 'always be himself, regardless of who is the Mayor', and
- WHEREAS,** Kenneth Robertson's wife Kayla also was instrumental in forming positive views of the Robertson family by providing molasses enriched Christmas cookies which no Board member can forget, but

**WHEREAS,**

Ken Robertson passed away too early in life on February 23, 2021, leaving behind his wife Kayla, and grieving board members and staff,

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Planning Board of the City of Plainfield, takes official recognition of Kenneth Robertson's devoted service over the last thirty one years, and as an esteemed leader of the Plainfield Planning Board;

**AND,**

be it further resolved that this statement of appreciation along with this Resolution as a representation of his leadership, while serving as a fellow Board member be hereby presented to Kayla Robertson by the Planning Board of the City of Plainfield.



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Ron Scott Bey  
Chairperson, Planning Board of the City of Plainfield

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William Nierstedt  
Director of Planning of the City of Plainfield

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Peter A. Vignuolo,  
Board Attorney, Planning Board of the City of Plainfield