

**RESOLUTION NO. 13613-23**

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia, wishes to honor and recognize Dr. Saundra N. Cherry for eight years of service as a member of the Newport News City Council; and

WHEREAS, from July of 2014 through December of 2022, Saundra N. Cherry served the citizens of the City of Newport News as a representative of the South District. On July 14, 2020, she was elected to serve as Vice Mayor by her peers on City Council, and served in that capacity for the remainder of her time on City Council; and

WHEREAS, a Newport News native, Saundra N. Cherry attended Huntington High School before graduating from Homer L. Ferguson High School in 1973. She received a Dental Assistant Certificate from Old Dominion University in 1976, an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from Fayetteville Technical Institute in 1981, and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1985. She later earned a Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1990, a Master of Divinity Degree from the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in 1999, and completed her Chaplain Residency at Riverside Regional Medical Center in 2000 before receiving a Doctorate of Ministry Degree from Regent University in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Saundra N. Cherry has served as a passionate advocate and leader for the citizens of the South District and the citizens of the City as a whole, striving to better the Newport News Community while ensuring that citizens were heard and understood that their voices matter; and

WHEREAS, prior to her election to City Council, Saundra N. Cherry was an active member of the community, including representing the South District as a member of the Newport News Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee in 2013, and serving on the Newport News Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Saundra N. Cherry has deep roots in the Newport News Community, and has served as Chair of James A. Fields House, Inc., Chair of the Downtown Newport News Merchants & Neighbors Association, Inc., Member of Heal-thy Generations Coalition, Inc., Chair of the James A. Fields House Neighborhood Watch Group, Member of the Neighborhood Watch Coalition, Member of the Southeast Cares Coalition, Member of the City of Newport News Commemoration Advisory Commission, Chaplain for the Newport News Police Department, Member of the Newport News NAACP, Former chair of the City of Newport News Planning District I Task Force, and Former Vice Chair of LINK of Hampton Roads Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Saundra N. Cherry received numerous awards and recognitions for her service to the community, including: YWCA Women of Distinction Award, President Obama's Volunteer Service Award, Sister to Sister Community Service Award, and several other acknowledgements and accolades; and

WHEREAS, Saundra N. Cherry has made many valuable contributions to the City, the Virginia Peninsula, and the entire Hampton Roads Region which this Council wishes to recognize.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia:

1. That it hereby recognizes Dr. Saundra N. Cherry for her eight years as a member of the Newport News City Council.
2. That it expresses deep gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Saundra N. Cherry for her many contributions to the City, the Virginia Peninsula, and the Hampton Roads Region.
3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of this body and that a copy be delivered to Dr. Saundra N. Cherry as a token of respect and warm appreciation of this Council and the citizens of Newport News.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC  
City Clerk

Phillip D. Jones  
Mayor

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk