

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

#34

RESOLUTION NO. _____
PROPOSED BY: FREEHOLDER JOHNSON
SUBJECT:

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(a)
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 3: 2-29 (B)

IN MEMORIAM

CLEO HILL

WHEREAS, Cleo Hill of Orange, New Jersey, passed from this life on Monday, August 10, 2015, at the age of 77;
and

WHEREAS, Cleo Hill was born and reared in Newark, New Jersey. He attended Eighteenth Avenue Elementary School, Cleveland Junior High School, and South Side (Shabazz) High School; and

WHEREAS, at Cleveland Junior High School, Cleo Hill played basketball under the tutelage of Mr. Frank Ceres, a basketball fundamentalist. At Shabazz, he was selected to play for the All-City team twice, and in his last year he led Essex County in scoring. His high school coach, Frank Delaney, called Cleo, "The greatest player I ever coached"; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Shabazz Cleo Hill attended Winston-Salem Teachers College (University) where he really reached stardom. There he led his team to two Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) titles and a District title, which gained the team a national berth in Kansas City, Kansas. His coach, the renowned Clarence "Big House" Gaines, a recent inductee into the National Basketball Hall of Fame, called Cleo the "most complete player that he ever coached." During his tenure at the University, he led the CIAA in scoring once, and was second on another occasion; and

WHEREAS, in 1961 Cleo Hill was the No. 1 Draft Choice of Coach Paul Seymour's St. Louis Hawks and he set a record for the most points scored by a rookie guard in his first NBA game, which still stands. He also played in the American Basketball League, the Eastern Pennsylvania Basketball League, the Eastern League and the Continental Basketball League; and

WHEREAS, Cleo Hill was inducted into the Winston-Salem State University Hall of Fame, and he and Newark's Alvin Attles of the Golden State Warriors were tied as the #1 vote-getters for the CIAA Hall of Fame. He was also recently inducted into the Newark Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Cleo Hill later became a successful college coach at Essex County College where his teams won 489 games in his 24 years of coaching, while also capturing three Region 19 championships. In 1975, he became Essex County College's Athletic Administrator, and under his leadership the Track & Field Team became one of the nation's best, winning six national championships. He also served on the Region 19 committees for soccer, cross country and men's basketball; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Cleo Hill was profiled in the ESPN documentary, *Black Magic*, which chronicled legendary African-American basketball stars from historically-Black colleges and universities, and his segment dealt with his 1961-62 NBA season with the St. Louis Hawks; and

WHEREAS, during his later years, Cleo Hill worked with children and young adults as a playground coordinator for the Newark Public Schools' Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, Cleo Hill is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Ann Hill, two devoted sons, Cleo, Jr., and his wife Regina, and Cleon; his daughter, Kim Taylor; grandchildren Khyara, Abdul, Sanaa, Sage and Cleo III; two great-grandchildren, Mikhaliah and Mariah; and a host of family, friends and former players; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby celebrates the life and mourns the passing of Cleo Hill and offers its heartfelt condolences and sincere best wishes to his family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Cleo Hill.

Michael J. Perlaumbis

Approved as to form and legality _____
Freeholder Counsel

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Freeholder _____
Second by Freeholder _____

| Freeholder | Yes | No | N.V. | ABS | Freeholder | Yes | No | N.V. | ABS |
|------------|-----|----|------|-----|-------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| BOBADILLA | | | | | RICHARDSON | | | | |
| GILL, V.P. | | | | | SEBOLD | | | | |
| JOHNSON | | | | | TORO | | | | |
| JONES | | | | | | | | | |
| LUCIANO | | | | | TIMBERLAKE, PRES. | | | | |

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was () adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a _____ meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on _____

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published _____

Britnee N. Timberlake, President