

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

# 37

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY: FREEHOLDER JOHNSON  
SUBJECT:

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

IN MEMORIAM

GAIL NAIDU BELL-BONNETTE

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette of East Orange, New Jersey, is being remembered upon her passing from this life on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, of complications from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette was a proud Trinidadian and South African woman. She migrated to the United States in 1969 to Brooklyn New York, then Newark, New Jersey, followed by South Orange, New Jersey, but it was in the City of East Orange that she finally found her home; and

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette worked as a teacher, counselor, and property manager. In her spare time, she was a mentor to many young people. She got her start bringing aid to neighborhoods in Newark. Volunteering with many organizations, she quickly arose as a leader; and

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette understood there must be a partnership between grassroots initiatives and politics, therefore she assisted federal elected officials like Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., and local leaders such as the first African-American Mayor of Newark, Kenneth Gibson. She expanded her political reach by making a point to also help many women in power in the City of East Orange through her involvement with the East Orange Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, using her people skilled personality, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette was famously known to be rich in her Trinidadian culture and deeply committed to teaching diversity to children. She was one of the organizers of The East Orange Caribbean Festival for 21 years. This festival was the second largest in the metropolitan area and attracted tens of thousands of people on any given year. She was also the primary organizer of the first-ever Republic of Trinidad & Tobago's flag-raising ceremony in the City of East Orange; and

WHEREAS, understanding how sports is a great unifier of people, thirty-two years ago, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette founded the TrinJersey soccer team that still exists and plays in tournaments today. In 2015, she was one of the original committee members for the first Essex County African Caribbean Festival. The goal of this festival was to bring Black and Brown people of the Diaspora together in "One Love" (an acknowledgment to Bob Marley), unity, and to cast away human-made divides rooted in slavery perpetuated by racism; and

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette was always looking for places to lend a helping hand and each October, she would lead a team called, "The Caribbean Walkers" in the Newark Breast Cancer Walk. This activity was dear to her as a survivor of cancer herself. While her service to the Oranges and Essex County was expansive over 40 years, she will be forever remembered in the hearts of those she touched; and

WHEREAS, Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette is survived by her two children, Larrisa Naidu Bell and Larry Bell, Jr.; grandchildren, Gabriella Mya Bell and Madison Isla Bell; and host of family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby celebrates the life and mourns the passing of Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette and offers their heartfelt condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Gail Naidu Bell-Bonnette.

Approved as to form and legality

Michael J. P... ..  
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
COOPER					POMARES				
GRAHAM					RICHARDSON, V.P.	✓			
JOHNSON					SEBOLD				
LUCIANO									
MERCADO					GILL, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brendan W. Gill, President