



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CRAIG A. MOE BY RENAMING THE CITY OF LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER AS THE CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE 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 Craig A. Moe be honored with the re-naming of the Laurel Multiservice Center to the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice 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 Craig A. Moe served the City of Laurel as an elected official for over thirty-three (33) years, first as a Councilman from 1988-2002 and then as the City of Laurel's Mayor from 2002-2023; and

WHEREAS, Craig A. Moe was born on December 3, 1959, in Prince George's County, Maryland, to Robert and Barbara Moe, who's lifelong volunteerism and dedication to public service helped inspire the same in Craig Moe and his three (3) siblings; and

WHEREAS, Craig Moe is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Laurel where his family has worshiped since the 1950's; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 Craig A. Moe began his public service career by joining the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1977 Craig graduated from Laurel High School and continued his involvement with the City when then Mayor Robert J. DiPietro appointed him to serve on the City of Laurel's July 4th Committee and Craig A. Moe was instrumental in starting the first Winter Holiday Celebration Parade, which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moe is a past President and past Fire Chief of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department. He was the youngest member ever elected to the Office of President in 1983. In 1986, he was elected President of the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, again the youngest President elected to that position and was elected to a second successive term. He also served on the Maryland State Firemen's Association Executive Committee for several years and one year as its Chair and continues to serve the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department and community by actively attending meetings, is active in emergency operations and continues to satisfy the Department requirements for active members; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 and again in 1998, Craig A. Moe was recognized among the "Outstanding Young Men of America". He was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, was honored to have been selected the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year four (4) times, was the recipient of the Albin Fairall Award and the Norris Beard Award; and

WHEREAS, Craig A. Moe was first elected to the Laurel City Council in 1988 and served as a Councilman until March 2002, when he was elected to his first term as Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Craig Moe successfully sponsored legislation to establish a juvenile curfew while protecting the rights of citizens, supported Public Safety groups and their goals, updated and sponsored legislation to the City's Ethics Laws, Historic District Guidelines, creation of the City's Adequate Public Facilities laws, established the Revitalization Overlay Program that allowed the City to redevelop from within its corporate limits including the redevelopment of the old Laurel Mall into the Towne Centre at Laurel; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 under the Moe Administration, the City's Moderately Priced Dwelling Units and Work Force Housing Dwelling Units programs were created and later revamped and renamed to the Affordable Housing Program, he created the Main Street Economic Development Program to provide grants for business and property owners, created the Economic Development Commercial Corridor Program to support City businesses as a means for business growth in the City of Laurel resulting in increased job opportunities, an expanded tax base and an improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS, after serving on the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Board of Directors for ten (10) years, Mayor Moe was elected MML President in 2009, and

WHEREAS, as Mayor, Craig A. Moe implemented e-government services, brought the recycling program "in-house" under the direction of the Department of Public Works, established the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program in 2011 that provide the opportunity for youth residents ages 14-16 to work in City Departments during the summer, gaining real life work experience while learning about their local government; and

WHEREAS, Craig Moe also created the Mayor's Annual Open House which showcased City services and City Volunteer Organizations, established the City's first Arts Council to encourage and invest in the visual arts, performing arts, and art education programs; directed the implementation of the City's Organics Recycling Program in an effort to reduce wasted food and turn it into a valuable and environmentally safe resource; and

WHEREAS, Craig A. Moe also served on the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council/State Emergency Response Commission and the State of Maryland Interoperability Governance Committee; and

WHEREAS, under Mayor Moe's leadership, the City's own Emergency Operations Center was opened, the City created and implemented the Office of the Fire Marshal taking on inspection and plan review processes to better serve the businesses and residents of the City, many new positions were added within the Laurel Police Department as well as a new command structure

to better serve the department and residents, purchased and renovated an old Church building and created the Barkman-Kaiser Public Safety Complex which is now the home of the Laurel Police Department; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mayor Moe was honored by the Maryland Municipal League with the Lifetime Achievement Award that recognizes an elected or appointed municipal official who has a strong record of service to the Maryland Municipal League and has demonstrated outstanding service to Maryland municipal government. Mayor Moe was also inducted into the MML Hall of Fame in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Craig A. Moe retired from the State of Maryland on January 1, 2018, with 31 ½ years of service. He served in the Maryland Transit Administration Police Force from 2003-2007 as a Special Assistant to the Police Chief and as Maryland's Assistant Secretary of State from 1999 until 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Mayor Moe appointed a City of Laurel Homelessness and Community Services Task Force following a 2015 feasibility study, who recommended a list of needed services for the Laurel area; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the United States and Prince George's County very hard and from the beginning of the pandemic when there were so many unknowns about the virus, Mayor Moe and then City Administrator the late William F. Goddard, III, immediately went to work reading everything they could to learn about the virus, participating in phone calls with County and State Health Officials, coordinating with the City's Health Officer, Dr. Unegbu on how to best protect the residents, businesses and employees of the City of Laurel. Mayor Moe and Mr. Goddard were at the Municipal Center working every day even when the majority of employees were working from home and the Governor had issued Stay at Home orders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel made it through the pandemic well, providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), partnering with community organizations to provide food, financial assistance, COVID-19 testing, and eventually vaccinations as soon as possible and this was largely due to Craig A. Moe's leadership, compassion and dedication to the people of the City of Laurel; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a multiservice center that would offer one central location to provide services and be part of the solution of homelessness in the Greater Laurel area; provide support services for individuals experiencing homelessness or near homelessness; maintain ongoing partnerships with other local service organizations in offering resources to the community; provide emergency sheltering and daytime respite; provide onsite medical and mental health evaluation and treatment including one-on-one case management and counseling services; be a part of the solution to address food insecurity in the Greater Laurel area; and assist in the transition of temporary sheltering to long-term housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, an opportunity presented itself to purchase a large commercial building that had once been a privately owned gym located at 204 Fort Meade Road in Laurel that Mayor Moe envisioned the unique location as being the perfect site for the Laurel Multiservice Center; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Craig A. Moe, with the support of his Administration and the approval of the Laurel City Council, acquired the property at 204 Fort Meade Road and began efforts to seek partnerships from local organizations, Prince George's County agencies and funding from the State of Maryland through the 21st District Delegation, to support the planning, engineering and construction of the property into the new Laurel Multiservice Center; and

WHEREAS, construction on the first phase of the Laurel Multiservice Center began in December 2022 and included the conversion of the existing gymnasium, two multipurpose rooms, and multiple storage rooms for equipment and emergency supplies. The entire roof of the building was replaced, as well as installation of a new HVAC and fire sprinkler system. The area will be used to generate revenue under the Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as for use by the residents of the Laurel Multiservice Center to promote physical wellness; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of construction focuses on the resource center and short-term housing sections. The building is being modified to accommodate all proposed services of the Laurel Multiservice Center with completion planned for 2024, and

WHEREAS, after 21 years as City of Laurel Mayor, Craig A. Moe decided to retire in 2023, but he will remain Mayor of the hearts of many City residents for years to come and because of his countless contributions to the City of Laurel, his legacy will never be diminished; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel is the wonderful place it is today because of the service and dedication of the longest serving Mayor in Laurel's history: Mayor Craig A. Moe, and

WHEREAS, Craig A. Moe has touched the lives of many with his selflessness, dedication, kindness, vision, and unwavering leadership that will continue to improve the lives of people in the City of Laurel for years to come through the Laurel Multiservice Center; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the re-naming of the Laurel Multiservice Center should move forward due to the City receiving six (6) applications, one from Mrs. Elizabeth Compton, one from the Honorable Gayle W. Snyder, former Laurel City Council President, one from the Honorable G. Rick Wilson, former Laurel City Councilman, one from Mr. William Wellford, lifelong City resident of Prince George Street and longtime Chief Election Judge for the City of Laurel Board of Election Supervisors, one from the Honorable Michael R. Leszcz, former Laurel City Council President and Mrs. Mary-Eileen Leszcz, lifelong resident of the City of Laurel and current member of the City's Historic District Commission, one from Ms. Jacqueline Ricks, resident of the Willow Oaks Community and City of Laurel Chief Election Judge, Ward 2; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that the Honorable Craig A. Moe, 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 lifelong service to the community of Laurel, for the immeasurable, indisputable, everlasting mark he has left all over the City of Laurel, and for his dedicated hard work on behalf of the City of Laurel residents and businesses, and his vision towards insuring the Laurel Multiservice Center would be created to continue helping people for years to come; and

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after careful review, and following the City of Laurel Naming policy, the Laurel Multiservice Center is hereby re-named the ***Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center***.

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

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, CMC
City Clerk

JAMES KOLE
President of the City Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor