

A RESOLUTION HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER JACQUELYN GIST

WHEREAS, Jacquie Gist is fond of saying, “I wasn’t born in Carrboro, but I got here as soon as I could,” arriving on our nation’s bicentennial, July 4, 1976; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie was the first coordinator for the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service community shelter, was a program manager for The Arc of Orange County, was a founding board member of the Community Home Trust, and was a member of the UNC Campus Y and the APPLES Service-Learning advisory board; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie has worked as a career counselor for her alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for most of her career, using her training in social work to assist students and student-led organizations; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie served as a member of the Town Council for 32 years, having been elected in 1989 and subsequently re-elected seven times; and she was honored by the North Carolina League of Municipalities in 2019 for reaching the milestone of 30 years in local office; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie represented the Town Council on the Carrboro Day Planning Committee, the Carrboro Vision 2020 Workgroup, the Carrboro-Chapel Hill Public-Private Partnership, the Centennial Celebration Planning Group, the Community Building Committee, the Community Home Trust, the End Homelessness in 10 Years Intergovernmental Steering Committee, the Facilitated Small Area Plan Steering Committee, the Greenways Summit, the Hogan Farms Facilitated Mediation Design Committee, the Landfill Owners Group, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Design Group, the OWASA-Carrboro American Stone Neighborhood Facilitated Mediation Committee, the Rogers-Eubanks Facilitated Community Remediation Group, the Schools and Parks Workgroup, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, and the Violent Crime and Gun Control Task Force; and she was the Town Council’s liaison to the Animal Control Board of Appeals, the Appearance Commission, the Arts Committee, the Board of Adjustment, the Greenways Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Planning Board, the Recreation and Parks Commission, the Stormwater Advisory Commission, and the Truth Plaque Task Force; and

WHEREAS, as a cofounder of Carrboro Day with Alderman Jay Bryan, Jacquie helped to bring the community together year after year to share art, music, poetry, and storytelling; and she further supported the arts by introducing resolutions establishing the Carrboro poet laureate, the Poets Council, and a paid summer apprenticeship in the arts for local young people; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie called out injustices when she saw them and, as one example, introduced a resolution to thwart the expansion of the county landfill in the historically Black Rogers-Eubanks community; and

WHEREAS, in December 1990, Jacquie introduced an amendment to the Town Code that added sexual orientation to the list of characteristics protected in the Town's equal employment opportunity policy; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie initiated the Town's Truth Plaque Task Force to acknowledge the ties of the Town's namesake to racial segregation, as part of a process of transforming the narrative of Carrboro and dedicating the community to a future of racial justice; and she asked that Black Lives Matter flags be flown at Town Hall in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder; and

WHEREAS, as a long-time liaison to the Town's Human Services Commission, Jacquie shined a spotlight on the important work of local nonprofit organizations in strengthening the community's safety net and fueling the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie often paid tribute to the Town's police officers for working every day to ensure the safety of the community, and she also highlighted the critical role of social workers and mental health practitioners in community well-being; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie had the foresight to encourage the Town to acquire the vacant property at 203 South Greensboro Street, which will become home to the Orange County Southern Branch Library and other vital cultural, recreational, and social services; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie was a proponent of the acquisition and preservation of the 27-acre Adams Tract, another critical addition to the Town's land bank; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Jacquie recognized the strength and resiliency of the community as evidenced by "neighbors checking on neighbors, groups checking on groups, and the Town checking on everybody"; and from the beginning of the pandemic, she has been a strong supporter of mask wearing, vaccination, and other important public health measures; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie championed Carrboro's small-business community by supporting adequate parking and other infrastructure, revolving loan funds, and—during the pandemic—hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency grants to help support the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie consistently encouraged residents to engage in local government through participation in advisory boards, Council-led listening sessions, and facilitated planning meetings; and she supported additional neighborhood outreach to find common ground on the design of the Martin Luther King Jr. Park, which she called "a living example of what can happen when each voice is listened to and neighbors are willing to work together to make sure no one is left out"; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie encouraged participants in the Carrboro Connects comprehensive plan process to embrace a vision of a "community of neighborhoods," and she stressed, in particular, the importance of affordable housing for those transitioning out of homelessness, for those in the missing middle, and for everyone in between; and

WHEREAS, Jacquie has lived in Carrboro for the past 45 years and, with her husband, local builder James Arndt, has raised three stepdaughters—Britton, Shelby, and Quinn—all graduates of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools; she is a first-time grandmother to John Archer; and she is adored by many other members of her close-knit family and the broader community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby names the Town's summer apprenticeship program in the arts the "Jacquelyn Gist Summer Apprenticeship in the Arts," in appreciation for Jacquie's 32 years of service and dedication to the Town of Carrboro; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council thanks Jacquie for bringing humor, historical context, and candor as she helped shape our community in innumerable ways over the past three decades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby expresses its deepest gratitude to Jacquie for her service to the people of Carrboro; wishes her ongoing professional and personal fulfillment in her work with students at UNC-Chapel Hill; and looks forward to her continuing involvement in this "community of neighborhoods" that she cherishes.

This the 7th day of December, 2021.