

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMPTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1978, the Hampton City Council passed a resolution creating the Hampton Clean City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Clean City Commission is to improve and enhance the physical environment of Hampton through beautification and community improvement programs; litter awareness, prevention, and abatement programs; solid waste management education; and urban forestry programs; and to educate citizens and encourage their participation in these areas; and

WHEREAS, at an August 1978 Council meeting, Paul Mingee was appointed as the first Chair of the Clean City Commission, and Tom G. Waters was appointed as Vice Chair; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hampton became a member of the Keep America Beautiful Clean Community System in September 1978; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 1978, Council was introduced to John Franklin Jemmott, the first Clean City Coordinator, and founding members Luie Fass, Bernard Big, Tom Daniel, Lindsay Tucker, Ed Szetela, Barbara Jensen, Peggy Etheridge, Godfrey Smith and Marilyn Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Commission won a second-place 1979 Keep America Beautiful National Award following its first year of existence; and

WHEREAS, in September 1980 Commission members recommended Article III, "Litter", to amend Chapter 20 of the Hampton City Code, which was approved without opposition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission won the first Keep Virginia Beautiful state award in 1982, became a founding member of the regional clean community and recycling organization Hampton Roads Clean Community Systems, and held its first volunteer recognition event at Fort Monroe; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Commission members proposed that the Crape Myrtle be named the City Tree of Hampton and since then, crape myrtle trees have been planted all over the City, with many private donations and volunteer labor; the Keep Hampton Green Fund, the School Pride In Action Program and mascot Captain Clean Claw all became part of the Commission's history; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Clean City Commission received the Governor's Award of Excellence in 1987, and the Yards Are Really Distinctive Showplaces and Clean Business Programs began; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, proceeds from recycling collections were donated to the Air & Space Center, and the first CoastWeeks Beach Cleanup was held; and

WHEREAS, highlighted in the Fiscal Year 1988 Annual Report were a 75 percent reduction in visible litter, recycling promotion and implementation of the Adopt-A-Spot Program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and its partners hosted the first Hampton Coastal Conference, held on September 30, 1989 at Hampton University, and the first regional Student Environmental Conference, held at Hampton High School in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Clean City Commission won a first-place Keep America Beautiful National Affiliates Award, the highest honor a KAB affiliate can attain; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and partners, Parks & Recreation, Hampton City Schools, the Volunteer Center of the Virginia Peninsula and the United Way, received a first-place Keep America Beautiful Award for Beautification and Community Improvement for the Keep Schools Beautiful Program; and

WHEREAS, from its very beginnings, the Hampton Clean City Commission has successfully focused on improving Hampton's physical environment by encouraging all residents to take responsibility for the City and has adapted to the City's changing times and needs adding programs for water quality and conservation, cigarette litter prevention and others as need arises;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, do hereby recognize the Hampton Clean City Commission as it celebrates its 30th anniversary and commend the Commission for its continued dedication to improving the physical environment in Hampton.

