

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 247

WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Faison was a dedicated public servant who served as the first woman mayor of the City of Camden; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Faison was born in Clinton, North Carolina in 1925; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Faison attended Shaw University, Temple University, and Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Faison was appointed to the Camden City Council in 1983, and served on the council during the 1980s and 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Faison became the first Black resident of Camden to serve on the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, now known as the Camden County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Mayor Faison became the first Black woman to serve as president of the Camden City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Mayor Faison became the first woman mayor in Camden's history, and was subsequently reelected to the office for two full terms, remaining in office until 2010; and

WHEREAS, during her time as mayor, Mayor Faison worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the residents of Camden; and

WHEREAS, following her decade as mayor, Mayor Faison remained an active member of the Tenth Street Baptist Church in Camden, and continued to mentor elected officials in Camden; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Faison has been recognized as a trailblazer for women, and in particular women of color, in Camden and in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of Mayor Faison, who will be remembered for her honor, integrity, and fearlessness, as well as the stability she provided during her time as mayor of Camden; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to honor the exemplary character and cherished memory of Mayor Faison, and to mark her passing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, in recognition and mourning of a dedicated and tireless public servant, Mayor Gwendolyn Faison.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
12th day of July,
Two Thousand and Twenty-one,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Sixth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor