

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 26

Approved January 22, 2024

WHEREAS, Mary Ross, born in Providence on September 23, 1923, was the daughter of the late Lottie Haskins of Virginia and the late Harry Hazard of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross served as a State representative in District 17 from 1992 to 1994, becoming the oldest freshman in State government at the time, where she advocated for Drug-Free Zones around our schools, school vouchers, and better healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross was a community activist in the West End for more than two decades before her election, where she earned the reputation of being “the woman who drove the drug dealers out of Bucklin Park” because of her fearless and determined efforts to protect the community she loved from crime and violence; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross demonstrated her immense care for the youth of Providence by serving on the Providence School Board for eight years, being the Director of Bucklin Park swimming pool for 22 years, and educating students as a teacher assistant in Asa Messer Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross co-founded the West End Community Center and demonstrated her dedication to the West End community by participating in West End Crime Watch, leading the West End Task Force, supporting Elmwood Little League Women’s Auxiliary and its teams, and arranging various programs and events for the residents; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross received numerous state, local, and civic honors and awards, such as being one of the top 10 legislators in Rhode Island by Operation Clean Government, showing her commitment to ethics and accountability in State Government; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross was responsible for major improvements to the Ardoene St. Playground tot lot and basketball courts, as well as numerous other city services requested by constituents such as clean ups at Mashapaug Pond; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ross was a legend of the neighborhood for her outstanding work founding the West End Community Center and for standing up for residents that were afflicted by drug dealing, prostitution, public drinking, bad housing, and other social ills that prevented the neighborhood from reaching its full potential; and

WHEREAS, Our City has become more resilient and safer by the work of Mary Ross, who embodied the values of courage, compassion, and excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of Providence hereby honors the memory and legacy of Mary Ross by renaming the Bucklin Street Splash Pad to the Mary Ross Splash Pad.

IN CITY COUNCIL

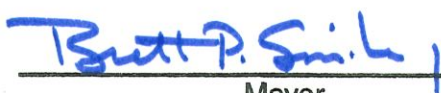
JAN 18 2024

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 1/22/2024

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent to the office of Mayor Brett Smiley, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Parks, the Department of Recreation, and the Board of Park Commissioners.