

**CITY OF XENIA, OHIO
RESOLUTION NUMBER 17 – FF**

**APPRECIATION FOR OUTGOING MAYOR MARSHA J. BAYLESS IN
RECOGNITION OF HER VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE CITY OF XENIA, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Marsha J. Bayless is a lifelong resident of the City of Xenia who was elected into office as Mayor by the registered voters of the City in the November 2009 General Election and re-elected in the November 2013 General Election, and she will have served two consecutive four-year terms from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2017;

WHEREAS, during her tenure since January 1, 2010, she has diligently worked for the betterment of the City of Xenia by serving the community and City Council through her active involvement in the following City commissions, boards, and committees:

Chair of the *Board of Zoning Appeals* (2010 thru 2017, inclusive)
Member of Council's *Budget Review Committee* (2012, 2014, 2015, 2017)
Member of the *Charter Review Committee* (2012 thru 2017, inclusive)
Member of the *Pretreatment Review Committee* (2011 thru 2017, inclusive)
Alternate City Representative to the *Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission* (2010)
Member of the *Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee* (2011, 2012, 2013)

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Mayor, Marsha has also represented the City of Xenia on the Dayton Region of Mayors and Managers and served as President from 2013 to 2015, and regularly meets with local, county, regional, and state officials to discuss pressing issues;

WHEREAS, she serves as a member of the Greene County Public Defenders Board, the Xenia YMCA Board, the Greene County Library Foundation Board, the Xenia Rotary Club, the Xenia Schools Foundation Board, Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority Board, Central State University Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and the African American Ministerial Alliance;

WHEREAS, as Mayor, Marsha exercised the ceremonial functions on behalf of the city including, but not limited to, presiding over Council's reorganization every January, attending numerous ribbon cutting ceremonies and open houses, presenting numerous proclamations to those in and around the Xenia area to honor their various personal and business accomplishments, and traveling the City's neighborhoods to personally hand-deliver hundreds of Beautification Awards to Xenia businesses and residents who make the City a more beautiful place to live, work, and play;

WHEREAS, Marsha has always been an excellent representative for the City of Xenia and an advocate for children as her 35-year career began at Xenia Community Schools as a school teacher and then as a school administrator at Arrowood Elementary and retiring as principal at McKinley Elementary, and she continues to support today's youth and tomorrow's leaders by serving as Wilberforce University Convocation Speaker, serving as judge for the XHS Science Fair and X-Act's art contest, attending XHS's Honor Awards Ceremonies, participating

in Greene County child abuse prevention awareness ceremony in 2013, and supporting the Greene County Violence Prevention Center;

WHEREAS, Marsha was chosen as “Community Leader of the Year” in 2010 by the Xenia Daily Gazette, inducted into the Xenia Community School Foundation Hall of Honor in 2012, and selected by the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter, Region VII, as “Public Official of the Year” in 2013, was inducted into Central State University’s Achievement Hall of Honor and awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Wilberforce University in 2015, and was the first elected official to receive the Barb Zajbel Xenia Ambassador Award by the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce in 2016;

WHEREAS, she continues to be an excellent representative for the City of Xenia and always presents herself in a very professional manner while being warm and approachable, and she has frequently been called “the busiest Mayor around” that includes hosting an annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Christian Men’s Fellowship of Greene County to benefit local charities, endeavoring to attend various recreation and entertainment events in the city including Music in the Park, Movies in the Park, First Fridays, Community Festival, Hometown Christmas, Business After Hours, Slow Rolls, even serving as a judge for the Hometown Christmas Window Decorating Contest and Walter Sellers Door Decorating Contest, as well as attending and/or speaking at all events and activities in which she has been extended an invitation, most notably, attending and speaking at the ribbon-cuttings for five new Xenia elementary schools in 2012, attending yearly Xenia vs. Beavercreek high school “Backyard Battles” football game and other sporting events, welcoming troops home from Iraq, advocating for participation in the 2010 Census, traveling to Washington D.C. to represent the newly designated national monument “Colonel Young Home,” and even taking the stage at X-Act for the Celebrity Old Time Radio Show on more than one occasion;

WHEREAS, Marsha has assisted the City and its residents during tragic events as well including supporting her students after the April 3, 1974, tornado, supporting the residents of Walter G. Sellers Senior Apartments following a devastating three-alarm fire on November 4, 2012, that left over 60 people homeless by doing whatever was necessary to secure food and shelter until they could return home, and spending a week at Central Middle School to support the faculty and students following the devastating suicide of a 12-year old student on October 7, 2014;

WHEREAS, Marsha faithfully attends United A.M.E. Church at 286 E. Church Street, Xenia, Rev. Dr. John Freeman presiding, where she serves as Pro tem of the Steward Board, is a Member of the Finance Committee and the Lay Organization, she is the Choir Director, and she regularly attends Sunday School and Bible Study;

WHEREAS, Marsha J. Bayless is a life member of the Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma International and is proud of her alma mater Central State University, which she wholeheartedly supports to include assisting with the planning and then attending the inauguration of the eighth CSU President Dr. Cynthia Jackson Hammond in 2013, attending yearly Freshmen Ladies Teas, serving as Grand Marshall of their homecoming parades, and attending graduation ceremonies;

WHEREAS, while change is always certain with the political landscape, so is the fact that former leaders set the proverbial table for others to follow, and Mayor Bayless has certainly set that bar high; and

WHEREAS, Marsha is the sister of Marilyn Hatcher and proud daughter of the late Clarence W. and Ruth G. Bayless, and we would be remiss not to mention that Marsha frequently attends area events with “First Dog” Bruno, a Yorkipoo who equally enjoys representing the City of Xenia.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF XENIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. This Resolution shall be declared an emergency so that it will be adopted and in effect before December 31, 2017.

Section 2. That the Xenia City Council, on behalf of the citizens of Xenia, Ohio, expresses its appreciation of the dedication and devotion she has shown to our community and our citizens. We wish her well in her future endeavors and sincerely thank her for her eight (8) years of dedicated service and contributions to the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be placed in the permanent record of the City of Xenia acknowledging her dedicated service to the City of Xenia from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2017.


Passed:

Attest:



Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Xenia City Council



Michael D. Engle, President
Wesley Smith, Vice President
Dale Louderback, Councilmember
Sarah Mays, Councilmember
Jeanne Mills, Councilmember
Edgar Wallace, Councilmember