

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 113-2020

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING LOCATED AT 1490 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK AS THE “WILLIAM J. WILLETT NASSAU COUNTY POLICE HEADQUARTERS”

WHEREAS, William J. Willett joined the Nassau County Police Department in the 1950s, and over nearly fifty years of dedicated public service, moved up the police ranks becoming the first African American to attain the ranks of Inspector, Deputy Commissioner, and in 2000 to be appointed by County Executive Thomas Gulotta and unanimously confirmed by this Legislature as the Nassau County Police Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, born in Glen Cove on May 4, 1931 and settling in Westbury, Commissioner Willett was a lifelong Nassau County resident, and after graduating high school, joined the United States Navy and served a four-year term during the Korean War before returning home to pursue a career with the Nassau County Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Willett dedicated his life to the betterment of Nassau County and its residents, beginning his career as patrol officer in the 1950's, then serving in the department's Community Relations Bureau in the 1960's and 1970's, the Chief of Patrol through the 1980's, as first Deputy Commissioner in the 1990's, and as Police Commissioner in 2000, the first African American Police Commissioner in Long Island's history; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Willett's career and dedicated service is an inspiration to all Nassau County residents and all those who serve the Nassau County Police Department and his achievements illustrate the many contributions made by African American residents in making Nassau County what it is today; and

WHEREAS, after a long and distinguished career in the Nassau County Police Department, William J. Willett retired and shortly after passed away on April 12, 2002; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature now deems it a fitting tribute to Nassau County Police Commissioner William J. Willett to designate the County building located at 1490 Franklin Avenue, Mineola New York as the “William J. Willett Nassau County Police Headquarters”; and

WHEREAS, said designation is hereby declared a public purpose; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County building located at 1490 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York shall hereafter be known as the “William J. Willett Nassau County Police Headquarters”; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Department of Public Works shall install conspicuous signage so designating the County building as the “William J. Willett Nassau County Police Headquarters” and all County agencies and departments are directed to take immediate steps to effectuate this designation; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Nassau County Department of Public Works shall install a dedication plaque to be prominently displayed at the main entrance of the “William J. Willett Nassau County Police Headquarters” inscribed as follows: William J. Willett dedicated his life and career to protecting and serving the people of Nassau County. A navy veteran of the Korean War, he joined the Nassau County Police Department in 1953 as one of only sixteen black officers, and through years of extraordinary service was the first African American to attain the ranks of Inspector, Deputy Commissioner, and Commissioner of Police. Commissioner Willett’s career and dedicated service is an inspiration to all Nassau County residents and all those who serve the Nassau County Police Department and his achievements illustrate the many contributions made by African American residents in making Nassau County what it is today.; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that such plaque be installed no later than one hundred and eighty days after the effective date of this Resolution.