

RESOLUTION
IN MEMORIAM
ROBERTA “BOBBIE” RAYMOND

WHEREAS, the Oak Park community joins the family of Roberta “Bobbie” Raymond in mourning her death on May 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park will forever remember Bobbie for her tireless activism, striving for equality and opportunity, passion for the arts, dedication to philanthropy, and undeniable love of community; admittedly a little feisty, Bobbie believed in Oak Park before Oak Park knew what to believe in; and

WHEREAS, after witnessing discrimination in housing as a young woman, Bobbie first joined the Oak Park and River Forest Citizen Committee for Human Rights in 1966 and advocated for Oak Park to pass a Fair Housing Ordinance in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond then sought a Master’s Degree in Sociology from Roosevelt University, which she achieved with honors after writing her thesis on creating a plan for successful racial integration in an otherwise white suburb of the West Side of Chicago, “The Challenge to Oak Park: A Suburban Community Faces Racial Change”; and

WHEREAS, with a plan that involved talking to people; educating homeowners, potential home buyers, and real estate agents to encourage “affirmative moves” for successful integration, Bobbie founded the Oak Park Housing Center in 1972; her plan was later to be referred to as “The Oak Park Plan”; she served as the Executive Director of the Oak Park (Regional) Housing Center for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond hoped to change the way people thought about integration: “if you were not looking to live in a diverse community maybe Oak Park wasn’t the place for you”, as she was known to say; Bobbie helped found the influential Oak Park Exchange Congress, which gathered like-minded communities from around the county to share best practices on integration efforts; and

WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was a scholar and an artist; she appreciated the education she received from Oak Park River Forest High School and hoped other young people would thrive from their experience at her alma mater; she co-founded the Oak Park River Forest Scholarship Foundation, served on the Board of the Oak Park Area Arts Council, taught classes at the Oak Park Art League, and served on the Oak Park Development Corporation Board, among others; and

WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond received many awards for her accomplishments including the Ulyssean Award, Athena Award, Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award, and Studs Terkel Award; Bobby found peace in gardening and enjoyed spending time with her family and close friends; Bobbie’s love of Oak Park and passion to work towards a strong, integrated and diverse community will leave a profound and lasting influence on Oak Park for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park that the sympathy of the officials and citizens of the Village of Oak Park be expressed to Roberta “Bobbie” Raymond’s family, and that this Resolution in Memoriam be respectfully presented to them and that a copy be preserved in the official records of the Village of Oak Park.

APPROVED this 20th day of May, 2019.

ATTEST

Anan Abu-Taleb, Village President

Vicki Scaman, Village Clerk