

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Howard Nathaniel Lee first came to Chapel Hill in 1964 when, persuaded by Dr. Frank Porter Graham, he entered graduate school at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, Howard finished his Masters of Arts in Social Work in 1966 and went on to work at Duke University and North Carolina Central University; and

WHEREAS, in May 1969 Howard was elected to the position of Mayor of Chapel Hill, making him the first African-American elected in a predominantly white city; and

WHEREAS, Howard served as mayor for a period of six years during which he built a strong, interactive relationship between the University and the Town; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor, he was instrumental in working with the University to transition out of the utility business and established the town's bus system which is now fare free - changes which have allowed the Town to grow and appeal to all; and

WHEREAS, he changed the position of mayor by opening the first formal mayor's office, establishing a budget and increasing attention on recreation and public housing; and

WHEREAS, Howard and Lillian were trailblazers, helping to move Chapel Hill toward being an integrated community by choosing to live and raise their three children in the Ephesus Church- Tinkerbell neighborhood, outside what was considered the accepted black neighborhoods of the time; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt in 1977 as the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, a position he held until 1981; and

WHEREAS, Howard served on the North Carolina Senate from 1990-1994 and 1996-2002; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, he was elected as the first African-American chairman on the North Carolina State Board of Education and served in this position until 2009; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed by Governor Mike Easley in 2005 to the North Carolina Utilities Commission as a member; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, he was honored alongside wife Lillian as a Chapel Hill Town Treasure and was appointed as the new executive director of the N.C. Education Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, his passions for education, social justice, civil rights, and public service have had a profound impact on the Chapel Hill community and the state of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council do, hereby, proclaim May 1st, 2019 to be

HOWARD LEE DAY

in the Town of Chapel Hill and urge everyone to thank Howard for his decades of public service, leadership and meaningful work.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE TWENTY-NINTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Hemminger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

PAM HEMMINGER, MAYOR