

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Robert Dowling has been an advocate for affordable housing in our community since moving to Orange County with his wife Bethaney Dale; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 Robert embarked on a second career in community development and joined Hayti Development Corporation, an affordable housing nonprofit in Durham, and

WHEREAS, in 1997, after a brief time on its Board, joined Orange Community Housing Corporation as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, under Robert's leadership, Orange Community Housing Corporation merged with the Community Land Trust in Orange County – an organization that had been established in 1999 with the support of the Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Hillsborough and Orange County, and which today is known as Community Home Trust; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Robert has helped ensure that more than 300 homes in the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area are permanently affordable; and

WHEREAS, today the Community Home Trust manages a total of 322 affordable single family ground leases and rental apartments with a staff of 10 and a budget of nearly \$1.1 million; and

WHEREAS, Robert has served as a trusted and faithful advocate, representing both Community Home Trust and the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition in discussions about development, at affordable housing tables and in front of elected bodies, making the case for such policies and investments as A Penny for Housing in Orange County and Chapel Hill, the Orange County Affordable Housing Bond, the Chapel Hill Affordable Housing Bond, and a Pilot Master Leasing program; and

WHEREAS, Robert's work in Orange County has ensured that neighborhoods are diverse and thriving and sustained as such for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Robert is retiring from Community Home Trust on January 10, 2020, after 22 years in service to our communities, and will be missed.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council do hereby proclaim Saturday, January 11, 2020 to be

Robert Dowling Day

In Chapel Hill and urges everyone to express their deep appreciation for his efforts to increase affordable housing and improve the lives of Chapel Hill families over the past 22 years.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE EIGHTH DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY.



