

**TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM –  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of Marilyn Lois Gregory Morrow  
SUNRISE: AUGUST 21, 1924 - SUNSET: MARCH 21, 2025  
Submitted by Councilmember Fred Durhal**

**WHEREAS** Marilyn Lois Gregory Morrow was born on August 21, 1924, in New York City to Dr. and Mrs. Horace Gregory. Her early years were marked by the challenges of the Great Depression, during which she was sent to her ancestral homeland of Jamaica to live with her aunt and uncle, Dr. James and Gertrude Gregory, who lovingly adopted her. It was there that her lifelong values of education, family, and faith were first nurtured. She later attended Friends College, a Quaker institution that instilled in her a steadfast commitment to peace, humility, and justice; **and**

**WHEREAS** Upon returning to the United States, Marilyn pursued higher education at New York University and Wayne State University, majoring in sociology and Spanish. Her deep desire to serve led her to a role with the Detroit Health Department, where she worked diligently as an air pollution enumerator and later as a public health assistant, supporting families with compassion and integrity; **and**

**WHEREAS** In 1964, after dedicating herself to raising her three beloved sons, Marilyn resumed her career as a test administrator with the Michigan Employment Security Commission. There, she played a vital role in helping countless individuals find meaningful employment, always bringing empathy, professionalism, and a graceful presence to her work; **and**

**WHEREAS** Marilyn's impact extended far beyond the workplace. She gave generously of her time and spirit — serving as a Cub Scout leader, PTA member, and longtime member of Central United Methodist Church, where she led the kindergarten department for 12 years. Later, as a member of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, she continued her life of service; **and**

**WHEREAS** Deeply passionate about cultural pride and humanitarian work, Marilyn co-founded the Michigan Haitian Organization IRIE, which delivered over 40,000 pounds of aid to Haitian refugees in 1981. She was also a founding member of the Detroit chapter of Friends of Amistad, an active member of the West Indian American Association, the International Institute, and a proud Silhouette of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated; **and**

**WHEREAS** Marilyn was a lifelong learner and dedicated arts enthusiast. For over 20 years, she volunteered at the Detroit Institute of Arts, serving proudly as a docent and gift shop volunteer — always wearing her volunteer pin with pride and never missing a recognition luncheon; **and**

**WHEREAS** Marilyn Lois Gregory Morrow was the proud and loving matriarch of a devoted family. She instilled in her family a deep respect for their Jamaican and Canadian roots, encouraging them to walk humbly, serve generously, and see the potential in every person. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** The Honorable Councilman Fred Durhal and the Detroit City Council, extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Marilyn Lois Gregory Morrow** and express our gratitude for her dedication and service to the City of Detroit, her community and church. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her spirit will live on in the countless lives she touched. Her life was a quiet but profound revolution — a source of strength, wisdom, and unwavering grace that uplifted everyone fortunate enough to know her.

**May 10, 2025 - TCB**