



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Diana Hales, Vice Chair
Jim Crawford
Mike Dasher
Andy Wilkie

COUNTY MANAGER

Dan LaMontagne

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Established 1771

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Recognizing The Honorable Joseph Moody Buckner for his 26 years of service to Chatham County as Chief District Judge of Judicial District 15-B.

WHEREAS, Joseph Moody Buckner was born on February 14, 1960 in Chatham County and received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and was a Law Partner with Epting & Hackney law firm from 1983 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Moody Buckner was elected in 1994 as District Judge for Judicial District 15-B, Orange and Chatham Counties, and re-elected without opposition in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner started North Carolina's first Mental Health Court to address unique needs of people with mental disabilities in criminal court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner began and refined two specialized Domestic Violence courts and started Judicial District 15-B's first Drug Treatment Courts; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner realigned child support court to increase court days, resulting in actual and percentage rate increase of child support collections. Judge Joe Buckner also organized, obtained funding and launched weekly Child Planning Conferences for children and families involved in abuse and neglect cases; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner worked with prosecutors, defense bar and mediators to develop mediation policy for civilian-generated criminal warrants. Established "People's Court" for such cases to attempt settlements between neighbors, family members and communities; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner established periodic review of every pending civil case in Orange and Chatham Counties to administratively resolve hundreds of cases each year and reorganized the District Court calendar, eliminating backlog of traffic, criminal, civil and child support cases; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe Buckner served as President for both the NC Association of District Court Judges and the NC Conference for Chief District Judges; served as member of NC Governor's Crime Commission; and served as Chief Justice's District Court representative to the State-Federal Judicial Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

1. Hereby expresses on behalf of the residents of Chatham County, deep appreciation and gratitude for the gifts of time, ability and commitment given by Judge Joe Buckner in carrying out the duties of Chief District Judge for Judicial District 15-B; and
2. Takes pride in honoring the tremendous service of Judge Joe Buckner for his legacy of excellence that will continue to benefit all of Chatham County for generations to come; and
3. Salutes Judge Joe Buckner upon his retirement and wishes him and his family much happiness in the years to come.

Adopted, this the 17th day of August, 2020.

Karen Howard, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

