

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

**A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
PAUL MAYHEW SMITH**

WHEREAS, Paul Mayhew Smith a long-time resident of Oakwood Village, has sadly passed away Sunday, December 4th, 2025, at the age of 75 at the Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Paul was born June 29th, 1950 in Charleston, West Virginia. He was the only child from the marriage of Lonnie Ellen Pack and the late Wallace Smith; and

WHEREAS, At the age of Five, Paul moved with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio, where his father worked for Anchor Industrials. His mother became a high school history teacher in the Cleveland Public School System. Paul attended Cleveland Public Schools and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He matriculated at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and upon graduation began his teaching career in the East Cleveland School District. There, he taught Adapted Physical Education to elementary students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, A year later, Paul was hired by the Cleveland Public School System to teach Physical Education and Health Sciences at Nathan Hale Jr High School; he was referred to as “Smitty” by his peers. After over twenty years at Nathan Hale, Paul transferred and continued teaching at Audubon Middle School. Paul obtained a Master of Science in Education at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, while teaching and coaching several sports at Audubon including wrestling, basketball, soccer, track, and field. He also served as the Athletic Director at Audubon, where he developed, organized, and coordinated school-wide physical activities for Field Day, fun runs, a walking program, morning exercise breaks, and fundraisers that promoted physical activity. Throughout his teaching and coaching career, Paul mentored many Cleveland students and made a difference in their lives. During the 2001-2002 academic year, Paul was recognized as an outstanding teacher during a Cleveland Cavaliers game with the Head of the Class Teacher Award. Paul retired from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District after 30 years of doing what he loved; and

WHEREAS, Paul was baptized into Christ at the University Church of Christ. He became a member of the Forest Hills Church of Christ, and later the Adams Avenue Church of Christ, where his late father Wallace served as a minister; and

WHEREAS, After retiring, Paul became active in several service organizations that involved education and mentoring youth. As a member of the Anthropos male affiliate group of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., he participated in Midwest Region virtual meetings and conferences, where he brought humor and a creative perspective that all enjoyed. Paul participated in the organization’s fundraising efforts to award scholarships for high school graduates pursuing careers in teaching. He was also active with Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Greater Cleveland Chapter where he volunteered at community events and mentored the

Chapter's Top Teens of America. Paul was also a Charles L. Franklin Associate, where he supported the impactful direct service and action to aid in building families and communities through the National Council of Negro Women-Cuyahoga County Section; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his mother Lonnie Ellen, Paul is survived by his two children, daughter Pia WaNita (Akima) Rogers of Lanham, Maryland, and son Paul Wallace Smith of Cleveland, Ohio, and their children Donovan Bradley Smith, Aidan Hodari Rogers, and Ava Pearl Rogers. Paul is also survived by his fiancée, Loretta Sharp Gray, close family friend Beverly Hood, extended family, friends, and former students, to cherish his memory

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT by the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Village of Oakwood, the Village Council, Mayor, and all elected and appointed officials express their most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Paul Mayhew Smith and hope that the fond memories of such a wonderful, caring person comfort them in their loss.

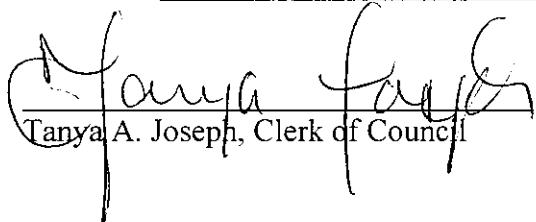
SECTION 2. The Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of this resolution to the family of Paul Mayhew Smith.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 1.13.26

Eloise Hardin

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

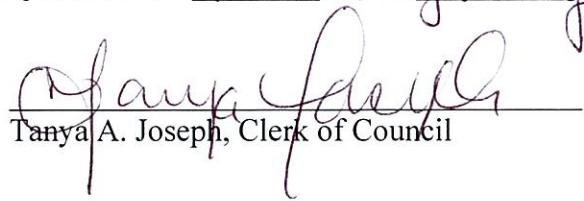

Tanya A. Joseph, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor 1.14.26

Approved: 1.14.26


Mayor, Erica Nikolic

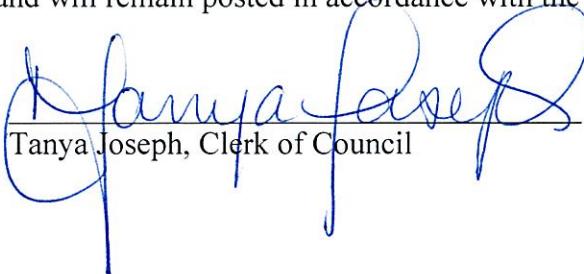
I, Tanya A. Joseph, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2026-01 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the 13th day of January 2026.



Tanya A. Joseph
Tanya A. Joseph, Clerk of Council

POSTING CERTIFICATE

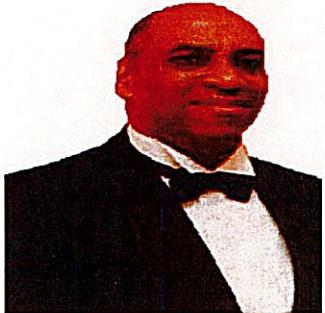
I, Tanya A. Joseph, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2026-01 was duly posted on the 14th day of January, 2026, and will remain posted in accordance with the Oakwood Village Charter.



Tanya Joseph
Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council

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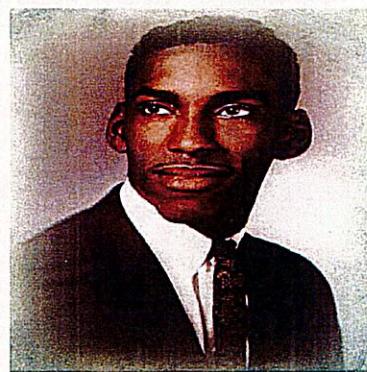
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Mayor Erica L. Nikolic

Councilor At-Large Norman Bliss

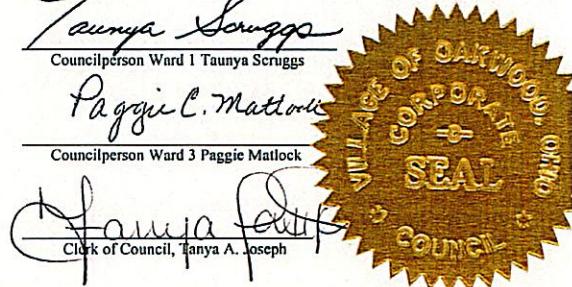
Councilor Ward 2 Yvonne Evans-Warren

Councilor Ward 4 Mary Davis

President Eloise Hardin

Councilor Ward 1 Taunya Scruggs

Councilor Ward 3 Paggie Matlock



Clerk of Council, Tanya A. Joseph