



Resolution



A RESOLUTION HONORING TOWN CLERK CATHERINE DORANDO

WHEREAS, when Catherine (“Cathy”) Dorando began her service as clerk for the Town of Carrboro in October 2010, her duties included providing administrative support for the Town Council; preparing agendas and minutes for council meetings; updating the Town Code; maintaining official Town records; responding to public records requests; accepting statements of domestic partnership (including that of then-Alderman Lydia Lavelle on the Town’s one-hundredth anniversary); developing and maintaining budgets for the clerk’s office, the Town Council, and the advisory boards; and coordinating Town-sponsored events; and

WHEREAS, Cathy took on additional responsibilities over time, including management of the advisory board recruitment and appointment process, development of advisory board policy documents, and a system to monitor the diversity of the advisory board applicant pool; and

WHEREAS, Cathy worked with Town staff to complete a comprehensive revision of the Town Code to use gender-neutral language, and she was invited by the University of North Carolina’s Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute to share lessons from that process at a summit examining the use of language in inclusive, just workplaces; and

WHEREAS, Cathy further expanded the role of the clerk by facilitating and reporting on the Town’s biennial Community Survey; serving as the Town Council’s legislative liaison on police body cameras, environmental reforms, social and economic justice, tree protection regulations, nutrient pollution management, LED street lights, and the Jordan Lake Rules; attending local government lobbying days at the General Assembly; and developing relationships with key state and federal officials to help advance concerns of community members, including those submitting applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for stormwater hazard mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in her role as staff representative to the North Carolina League of Municipalities and the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, Cathy monitored legislation affecting the Town and kept the Town Council informed and the community’s interests at the forefront during their consideration; and

WHEREAS, Cathy served as the staff liaison to the Truth Plaque Task Force; the Pride Subcommittee; the Citizens Academy, which she helped launch in 2018; and the mayor’s Youth Advisory Board, which planned and coordinated the Town’s first-ever youth-led Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, now a popular, community-wide annual event; and

WHEREAS, Cathy shined in her role interfacing with the public, fielding questions from community members and directing them to appropriate resources, always in a friendly, timely, and professional manner; and

WHEREAS, as a reflection of her well-honed managerial skills, on multiple occasions Cathy was selected to serve as acting town manager, including during Hurricane Florence in 2018; and



Resolution



WHEREAS, Cathy holds the Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the highest level of certification that can be earned by a municipal clerk based on rigorous educational and professional requirements; and

WHEREAS, Cathy brought exceptional professionalism to her work as town clerk, as captured in these comments from council members:

- Council Member Barbara Foushee wrote, “Catherine has always been an exemplary Town of Carrboro employee! I have found her to be friendly, professional, and always eager to help out. Catherine has provided strong, solid support to our council and has been instrumental in the execution of the youth led MLK Day celebrations and advisory board recruitment to name a few. Words can’t truly express the gratitude that I have for her and all that she has brought to the town clerk role. She will be missed.”
- Council Member Randee Haven-O’Donnell wrote, “Catherine Dorando is a thoughtful and caring individual whose smile and laughter infectiously warm up the room. She strives for excellence in every aspect of her work. Cathy understands public service and has been dedicated to it. Her tenure has reimaged and redefined what it means to be Carrboro's town clerk. That is the gift she has given us and for which we have the deepest appreciation and gratitude.”
- Council Member Danny Nowell wrote, “I’ve only had a short time to work with Cathy, but it’s clear from her warm and thorough welcome to the town government that she’s played a massive role in building our community, and that her presence will not be fully replaceable. Since she’s the first town clerk I’ve ever gotten to work with, I’ve pretty much been given the impression that a clerk’s role is almost everything to do with the Town. As I learn more, though, I suspect that’s not so much a clerk’s role as it has been the role Cathy has taken on. I’m so grateful to have gotten her help onboarding into this new role, and I wish her the very best in her next chapter.”
- Council Member Susan Romaine wrote, “As much as her Town Clerk position grew over the years, Cathy never lost sight of the importance of the details: offering detailed instruction to ensure a community member could comment at a virtual council meeting, inviting a guest speaker to a Youth Advisory Board meeting to explain why they were drawn to public service, adding signage at the new Bim Street polling site to make it more visible to voters, or ordering Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ flags to fly at Town Hall. Cathy’s decency, humanity, and dedication to public service are an inspiration to me and so many others.”
- Council Member Sammy Slade wrote, “Cathy went above and beyond with self-initiative that expanded the town clerk role. Examples include her work as liaison to the NC League of Municipalities and her creation of the town’s citizen academy.”



Resolution



- Mayor Damon Seils wrote, “Cathy brought a level of professional knowledge and skill to her work that helped modernize and raise the profile of the clerk's office in ways that will serve her successors well for many years to come—all while contributing to a sense of community in Town Hall and building countless lasting friendships.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Cathy for her more than a decade of service, professionalism, and friendship to the Town of Carrboro, and wishes all the best for Cathy, her wife Melissa, and their growing family.

This the 1st day of February, 2022.



Damon Seils, Mayor