

Proclamation

Jay Bryan- A Carrboro Community Treasure

WHEREAS, in more than five decades in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community, Jay Bryan has worn many hats including attorney, poet, husband, elected official, neighborhood activist, father, and judge; and,

WHEREAS, the thread tying his varied roles together is one of sustainable community; and,

WHEREAS, after getting married, Jay and his wife Carroll made their home in a restored mill house in Carrboro. It was in this mill town neighborhood that Jay's care for the town of Carrboro blossomed.; and,

WHEREAS, problems with cars speeding by his new home led to Jay's first real political involvement, bringing stop signs and one-way streets that dramatically improved neighborhood life; and,

WHEREAS, Jay formed Friends of Carrboro, a group that positively influenced local planning decisions; and,

WHEREAS, Jay served on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen for ten years; and,

WHEREAS, among his many board accomplishments was funding what was then a struggling ArtsCenter, voting to provide employee benefits for members of the LGBTQ community, establishing, along with Jacquie Gist, an annual Carrboro Day, and forming a gun regulation committee; and,

WHEREAS, not only did Jay create the position of Carrboro Poet Laureate, he also served as the town's poet laureate for two years; and,

WHEREAS, from 2012 - 2020, Jay served as a district court judge, incorporating a community-based justice approach into his work. Since retiring from the bench, Jay has been coaching women in recovery, including women in prison, through UNC's Horizons program.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina do hereby proclaim Jay Bryan a 2024 Carrboro Community Treasure.