Proclamation

HONORING ROBERTA FLACK

February 10, 1937 – February 24, 2025

WHEREAS, five-time Grammy award winning music legend Roberta Flack was born to musically gifted parents, Laron and Irene Flack on February 10, 1937 in Black Mountain, NC; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack was classically trained on the piano from an early age, and she received a music scholarship at age 15 to attend Howard University; and

WHEREAS, after being discovered while singing at a nightclub in Washington, D.C., she was immediately signed by Atlantic Records producing a string of hits, including, *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*, *Where is the Love*, *Killing Me Softly With His Song*, *The Closer I Get To You*, and *Tonight I Celebrate My Love*; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack remains unparalleled in her ability to tell a story through her music. Her songs bring insight into people's lives, loves, culture and politics, while effortlessly crossing a broad musical landscape from pop to soul, to folk to jazz; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack was very active as a humanitarian and mentor, founding the Roberta Flack School of Music at the Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx, providing an innovating and inspiring music education program to underprivileged students free of charge; and

WHEREAS, when interviewed in 2020, Roberta stated "through music we understand what we are thinking and feeling. No matter what challenge life presents, I am at home with my piano, on a stage, with my band, in the studio, listening to music. I can find my way when I hear music."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, I, C. Michael Sobol, Mayor of the Town of Black Mountain, do hereby recognize and honor Roberta Flack for her achievements in music and as a humanitarian, and proclaim March 11th, 2025 as **ROBERTA FLACK DAY** in the Town of Black Mountain.

This the 10th day of March 2025.

_____
C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Wesley M. Barker
Town Clerk