

RESOLUTION 2018-010

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND APPLAUDING
THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF GRAY OLIVER
THORNBURG TO THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE, as follows:

WHEREAS, GRAY OLIVER THORNBURG has served loyally as Commissioner of the City of Belle Meade for twelve years (2006 – 2018) and for four years as Mayor (2010 – 2014);

WHEREAS, the duties required of a Commissioner are not proportional to the size of the city, as the City of Belle Meade still presents the same issues of governance, politics, long range planning and allocation of scarce resources as cities many times its size;

WHEREAS, in addition to those duties required of anyone involved the governance of a city, the City of Belle Meade presents unique challenges to those charged with preserving its substantial assets, both tangible and intangible;

WHEREAS, in addition to those duties routinely required of those who assume such responsibilities, she has faced major floods, other stormwater events, (sometimes minor except in the minds of the residents), droughts both climatic and financial, and the pestilence of litigation;

WHEREAS, she has valiantly led the effort to preserve the beauty of our fair city without falling back on architectural review and other obstacles;

WHEREAS, she has contributed to the public discourse of current events and governmental affairs on which this great Country was founded more than two hundred years ago, eschewing the anonymity of the internet (reportedly founded by Belle Meade resident Al Gore) in honor of the proud traditions of the Constitutional debates of 1787 and our legal council's enforcement of Sunshine Laws, while holding court on the affairs of state on the Belle Meade County Club Golf Course;

WHEREAS, having undertaken these serious duties, fully understanding the burden of exercising her discretion in deciding matters that encourage legitimate debate, and exercising the courage to resolve important issues for the long-term benefit of all our citizens, she has contributed daily to the welfare of this City and its citizens;

WHEREAS, she has made these contributions using her unique combination of intellect, experience, wisdom, judgment, finely tuned political instincts, public trust and business acumen, not to mention the ability to field random calls at all hours of the day and night about matters not within her control;

WHEREAS, In addition to her primary duties as Mayor and Commissioner, Gray held various assignments such as secretive detective work, shift evaluation of police officers, oversight of video surveillance system's initial study, and the installation, training and review. During her term as Mayor, Gray provided valuable guidance and counseling to the Board of Zoning Appeals, while assuring the integrity of existing codes. As Commissioner, she kept a watchful eye on the implementation of the floor area ratio zoning change. Gray reminded all involved to the financial responsibilities in the final steps of Harding Place sidewalk construction. She made the initial recommendation of one-lane closures to allow for bicycles and pedestrian traffic along the south portion of Belle Meade Boulevard (this idea failed

led by a postman's rant at Commissioner meeting) and was exacerbated by the engineer's failure (and the commissioners failure also) to recognize the number and size of crosswalks and other road markings used following the repaving of Belle Meade Boulevard (to the point of where certain unnamed people calling BMB a new BNA runway 000/180);

WHEREAS, as a result of her leadership, including delegating expertise, the City of Belle Meade has been well-managed fiscally while preserving public services, improving its infrastructure and assuring the general satisfaction of its very demanding citizens;

WHEREAS, she has done so as a volunteer without monetary compensation, acting as an involved and responsible steward of this City's assets, while always planning for its future;

WHEREAS, Gray Thornburg has served this City with selfless devotion and time-consuming effort, is highly regarded by her fellow Commissioners and respected as leader on our Board of Commissioners and in our community for her invaluable contributions to this City; and her contributions to the City of Belle Meade will always be appreciated, her presence in the future missed, and her sacrifice for the benefit of our fair City always celebrated;

WHEREAS, and most importantly, her fellow commissioners have said "Gray cares deeply about Belle Meade, its citizens and the issues the city is facing; she strives to leaves things better than she found them. She is passionate, opinionated and willing to fight for what she believes in. She is funny, witty and likes to share a cocktail or glass of wine at the end of the day. The staff will never forget her annual holiday apricot preserves and wonderful bourbon brownies; Gray is the consummate commissioner possessing the following attributes: She is smart, with investigative abilities, sticks to her beliefs regardless of the competition, weighs benefits versus cost on each line item or discussion point, a leader to the Nth degree and very loyal to her constituents: Passionate, relentless and never reluctant to share her viewpoint";

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of her many contributions to the City of Belle Meade, be it resolved;

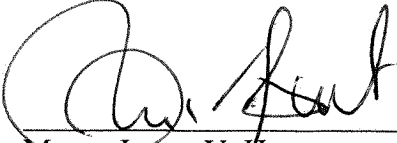
Section 1. The City of Belle Meade, while bemoaning the retirement of its selfless public servant, Gray Oliver Thornburg, recognizes her many contributions and wishes her the best in her retirement from public service to this city; and,

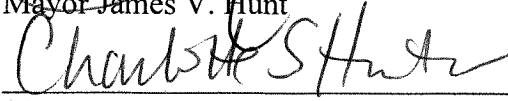
Section 2. The City of Belle Meade, acting through vote of its Commissioners, recognizes, lauds and applauds Gray Thornburg upon her retirement as Commissioner of the City of Belle Meade and thanks her for her lasting contributions and enduring legacy of service to its citizens.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its adoption, the welfare of the City of Belle Meade requiring it.

Date of Adoption:

November 28, 2018



Mayor James V. Hunt


City Recorder Charlotte Hunter