

WHEREAS, Firefighters have been part of the American scene since the earliest colonial days and are met with challenges of fires and must be prepared to fight in all types of conditions at great personal risk and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, long time Fire Volunteer Gary Greves first started serving the Borough of Watchung in 1971 as a Probationary Firefighter, and

WHEREAS, throughout the years Gary went on to serve in many organizational roles and moved up the ranks becoming a Firefighter in 1972, an Engineer in 1972 through 1975, went on to become Lieutenant from 1976 through 1977, Captain from 1978 through 1981, Assistant Chief from 1982 through 1984, and finally the Chief of the Fire Department in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of a Fire Chief is not a typical eight-hour day job, it requires a person to be on call 24/7 and to always be ready to serve his community night or day; and

WHEREAS, Gary's experience in responding to emergencies is very natural to him as he also still takes in the most duty calls for the Watchung Fire Department as an Engineer, Officer, or as a Firefighter on the back step; and

WHEREAS, he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to his community not only by taking the most calls, but by attending most of the meetings, drills and countless community events; and

WHEREAS, Gary is also a Mutual Aid Fire Coordinator for the County of Somerset, a rare and extremely valuable asset to the Borough of Watchung.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that Mayor Keith S. Balla, along with Members of the Council, and on behalf of the residents of the Borough, do hereby extend it sincere appreciation to Gary Greves for his 51 years of faithful dedication to Watchung as a Volunteer, as well as its best wishes for his continued health, happiness, and success.

Keith S. Balla, Mayor December 8, 2022