

## COUNCIL TRIBUTE NO. 2014-03

### **A TRIBUTE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES UPON THE PASSING OF MURIEL SCHWARTZ:**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Dover have been greatly saddened by the death of iconic civic leader Muriel Schwartz, who passed away at the age of 100 on December 18, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Muriel Schwartz was a strong-minded and astute businesswoman who assumed ownership and operation of her father's theater business, including the Capitol Theater in Dover, following his death in 1942. In an era when women rarely held professional business positions, Muriel and her stepmother, Reba Schwartz, expanded their family enterprise into a regional corporation which included 12 movie houses spanning from New Castle County to Salisbury, Maryland. The Capitol Theater became a focal point for the arts, and hosted state political conventions in the 1940s and 1950s; and

**WHEREAS**, Muriel Schwartz fought for the rights of the citizens of Dover when, in 1972, she led a protest against censorship by showing a film not permitted under the City's anti-obscenity ordinance, which led to the repeal of the law; and

**WHEREAS**, after selling her movie chain in 1973, Muriel Schwartz founded a Dover art gallery, Muriel's, on Loockerman Street in Dover; and in the late 1990s served as an integral member of the Friends of the Capitol Theater, whose efforts resulted in the renovation and reopening of her former theater as the Schwartz Center for the Arts in 2001 which continues to showcase the performing arts and serves as a landmark destination throughout the City of Dover, Kent County, and State of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, as a determined and passionate civic leader, Muriel Schwartz advocated for the foundation of the Greater Dover Committee, bringing community leaders together to improve the quality of life for the residents of Central Delaware. She also served as Kent General Hospital Board's first female president, and was instrumental to the success of a multitude of other civic and philanthropic enterprises; and

**WHEREAS**, Muriel Schwartz's passion for her community led her to continue to work from her downtown Dover office well into her nineties, and her diligence and hard work exemplify a life well lived.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Muriel Schwartz, and hope that they will be consoled by the memories of her exemplary life and commendable achievements.

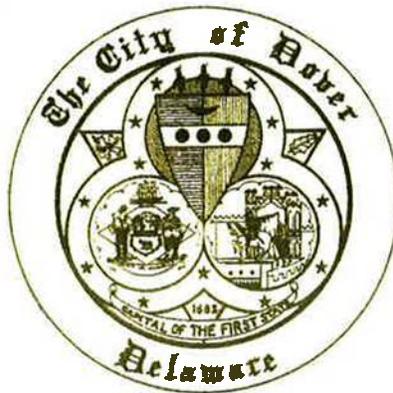
**ADOPTED: JANUARY 12, 2015**



Robin R. Christiansen  
Mayor



David L. Bonar  
Council President



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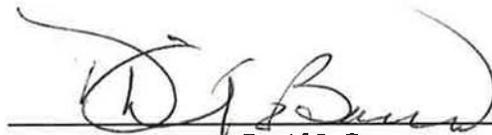
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