RESOLUTION NO. 2025-013

A RESOLUTION honoring Betty Robinson-Gray and Thelma Meeks for their years of dedicated service by naming the splash park and ice ribbon facility at Ewert Park, **"The Robinson-Gray & Meeks Family Splash Park & Ice Ribbon Center".**

WHEREAS, Thelma Meeks graduated from Tuskegee Institute, where she was a student of Dr. George Washington Carver and attended on a scholarship from Paul Ewert and graduated top of her class. After completing her studies, returned to Joplin and taught at the historic Lincoln School until 1954; and,

WHEREAS, Thelma Meeks earned her master's in education from Kansas State Teachers College (now Pittsburg State University) and worked as a consultant for the Joplin Regional Center. She retired from Washington School, where she taught 4th grade; and,

WHEREAS, Thelma Meeks passion in shaping young minds lead her to working in Ewert Park, running concessions, providing community events for young people, and operating Ewert Pool from the 1930's through 1960's; and,

WHEREAS, Betty Robinson-Gray graduated from Missouri Southern State College in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education; and,

WHEREAS, Betty Robinson-Gray was an educator for thirty-nine years at Joplin Hight School. She taught Psychology, World History, Advanced World History, Parenting, and Understanding Law. She assisted with the Respect Club and the Constitution Team at the high school. During her teaching career she was the recipient of two Golden Apple Awards; and,

WHEREAS, Betty Robinson-Gray, better known as "Miss RG", operated Ewert Pool from 1970's through the 1990's. She was a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, which allowed her to train and certify all the lifeguards at Ewert Pool and teach the children who attended the pool in swim lessons. Miss RG wanted everyone to always make themselves better, stronger, and happier; and she believed that knowledge was the key to all open doors; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Joplin, Missouri desires to honor Betty Robinson-Gray and Thelma Meeks for his distinguished service, outstanding leadership, and valuable contributions during their public service career.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. That the Joplin City Council at its November 17, 2025, meeting, hereby honors Betty Robinson-Gray and Thelma Meeks by naming the splash park and ice ribbon facility located in Ewert Park at 7th Street and Murphy Blvd, the **"Robinson-Gray & Meeks Family Splash Park & Ice Ribbon Center".**

Section 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI this the 17th day of November 2025, by a vote of

_____ Keenan T. Cortez, Sr., Mayor ATTEST:

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Holly Nagy, City Clerk