

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF IRVINGTON, NJ

No. **MC 19-1112-60**

Date of Adoption **NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY ON THE BASIS OF FACTS SET FORTH BY

[Signature]
Legislative Research Officer

HUDLEY

PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER

SECONDED BY

BURGESS

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

ROBERT J. LEWIS

BLACKBELT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WHEREAS, the Irvington Municipal Council wishes to commend Robert J. Lewis, Instructor of the Blackbelt Christian Academy located in Irvington for his outstanding and extensive experience in martial arts; and

WHEREAS, Robert was born in Tallahassee, Florida in 1959. It was 1967 in Asbury Park, NJ where he found out self-defense was absolutely necessary. By 1973, he was on the freshman football state champions' team and by 1975 on the Neptune Township, NJ junior varsity and varsity wrestling team. At the age of 17 in USMC boot camp in Parris Island, SC, Robert learned never back down and came home to his first Karate Judo School in Neptune, NJ under 8th Dan Cyril Cousins NJ AAU Coach 3 years; and

WHEREAS, by the time Robert's son was born in 1981 he was a 21 training in Isshyn-Ryu karate, after the school closed in 1982. His 5th Dan Instructor helped him win his first tournament at Marlboro High School and became the yellow belt champion in 1982 and that tournament had people he still sees today 35 years later teaching martial arts; and

WHEREAS, Robert started to work on his chef career and raise his son as single father. He joined Tim Ratty's Taekwondo Plus in Long Branch, NJ in 1990 and later joined Dojang a martial arts studio in Long Branch. He rose through the ranks competing at nearly 20 tournaments out of state as far as North Carolina and South Carolina 9 times, Jackson, Mississippi and Kenner, Louisiana. At the Ponchartrian Center Nationals he was always placed in forms and sparring 1st or 2nd. He took the instructor training courses from 1992 through 1994 and then opened his first class at the Neptune City Fire House. He then competed at Grand Champion Atlantic City Nationals at the Atlantic City Convention Center in January 1995 earning 2nd Dan; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1995 Robert opened Asbury Park Martial Arts Center in Asbury Park and enrolled 96 students from 8 local schools. His good friend Master GJ Torres of his famous Black Dragons Dojo and Robert began to compete in open karate tournaments like the Gary Alexander Open Karate Championships until 1999 when they closed. At that time, he had fulfilled his dream and became a full time self-employed martial arts business owner; and

WHEREAS, Robert's training kept sharp as a well-known instructor. He attended Brookdale Community College in 2000. Robert was involved in a bus accident in 2003 and had to undergo a back disk surgery in 2006 while finishing his bachelor's degree in 2007 and training on his own through 2009 in Red Bank NJ. In September 2009, he joined Imperial Martial Arts a Jhoon Rhee ITF school in Shrewsbury, NJ. By 2011 he moved to Perth Amboy with his new skills and began competing again at Black Dragons Open Tournaments and teaching again in the churches gyms creating Blackbelt Christian Academy in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Robert needed a hip replacement and relocated to Irvington to be closer to his doctors. He quickly got back in shape and rose to instructor in a year and then a 2nd hip replacement was necessary 20 months later in April 2016. The children and parents continuously called Robert and asked him to return to instruction. United Methodist Church in Irvington sponsored a Saturday morning karate kids program and it eventually became a Facebook success through Robert's business school marketing skills he received at Rising Tide Capital Community Business Academy in Jersey City, NJ; and

WHEREAS, Robert's blue Jhoon Rhee instructor's uniform was a hit in the township for the Recreation Department so they gave him the job at the Chris Gatling Center and now 3 years and 15 tournaments later his organization has a major presence with area youth:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF IRVINGTON that the Irvington Municipal Council hereby commends Robert J. Lewis and his Blackbelt Christian Academy and wishes him continued success in martial arts and contributing to the Irvington youth and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this governing body in lasting tribute to Robert J. Lewis.

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE

X = Indicates Vote N.V. = No Vote A.B. = Absent

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	N.V.	A.B.
BEASLEY	X				INMAN	X			
COX	X				VICK	X			
FREDERIC, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT	X				BURGESS, PRESIDENT	X			
HUDLEY, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT	X								

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL *[Signature]* MUNICIPAL CLERK *[Signature]* DATE **November 12, 2019**

hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Municipal Council. In witness whereof I have caused to set my hand and the Corporate Seal of the Township of Irvington.

MUNICIPAL CLERK *[Signature]*

DATE **NOV 12 2019**

ADMINISTRATOR ☐ ASSESSOR ☐ BLDG ☐ CFO ☐ COLLECTOR ☐ COURT ☐ EDGO ☐ ENGINEER ☐ FIRE ☐ CF ☐ HEALTH ☐ HOUSING ☐ INIC ☐
IG ☐ LEGAL ☐ LIBR ☐ LICEN ☐ MAYOR ☐ NPP ☐ OCPD ☐ PARKS ☐ PAYROLL ☐ PUBLIC SAFETY ☐ DIR ☐ PUBLIC WORKS ☐ PURCHASING ☐
PB/ZBA ☐ TRAFFIC ☐ ZONING ☐ OFF ☐ DLGS ☐ GNCD ☐ OTHER(S): _____