

## RESOLUTION FOR JULIUS CHAMBERS

**WHEREAS**, Julius Chambers advanced the rights of minorities and low-income people through his tireless advocacy in the forms of litigation, scholarly research, and grassroots activism, and enhanced racial equality throughout the nation from his home state of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Chambers was born in 1936 in Mount Gilead, North Carolina and graduated summa cum laude from what is now North Carolina Central University. After obtaining a master's degree in history from the University of Michigan, Chambers returned to his native North Carolina to study law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated first in his class and served as editor-in-chief of the North Carolina Law Review; and

**WHEREAS**, Chambers was one of the first two NAACP Legal Defense Fund Scholarship recipients and was the Legal Defense Fund's first Legal Fellow. After working as an intern, lawyer, cooperating attorney, board member and board chair, Chambers served as director-counsel of the Legal Defense Fund from 1984 to 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Chambers founded the first integrated law firm in the state of North Carolina, where he worked to advance civil rights and litigated landmark civil rights cases in the United States Supreme Court. While his home and car were firebombed and his office was burned to the ground on separate occasions during the height of some of his most contentious civil rights trials, Chambers' composed refrain of 'just keep fighting' resounded across the state and the nation. Chambers won numerous cases before the United States Supreme Court, including *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* and *Griggs v. Duke Power Company*; and

**WHEREAS**, the resolution adopted by the Charlotte City Council acknowledged the importance of Julius Chambers to the advancement of civil rights and practice of law in North Carolina and in support of the North Carolina Department of Transportation in the designation of I-85 from the I-77 interchange to the I-85 Connector in the state of North Carolina of the National System for Interstate and Defense Highways as the "Julius Chambers Highway."

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names the designation of I-85 from the I-77 interchange to the I-85 Connector in North Carolina as the *Julius Chambers Highway*.

That appropriate signs will be erected at a suitable time.

Adopted this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary of Transportation