

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Warren C. Coleman was born in Concord, North Carolina, on March 21, 1849, the son of Rufus Clay Barringer, a Confederate General and Roxanna Coleman, a slave owned by David Coleman, Sr. of Concord. Rufus Barringer provided the inspiration and financial assistance in Coleman's early business ventures and his establishment of a cotton mill in Concord; and

WHEREAS, Coleman worked for the Confederacy during the Civil War, making boots and shoes. His first business was a combination barber shop and cake and candy store; and

WHEREAS, Coleman purchased land in the African American Community (later "Coleburg or Logan Neighborhood") and constructed a series of inexpensive wood frame rental houses. Largely through the efforts of Warren C. Coleman, this area south of Corban Avenue and west of Spring Street became Concord's principal African American residential community; and

WHEREAS, Coleman developed, between 1875 and 1904, nearly one hundred rentals, purchased four farms, and a substantial number of city lots, many of them on the southwest outskirts of town – Coleman thereby became one of Cabarrus County's largest property owners, and among the most influential black or white citizens; and

WHEREAS, in October 1896, the local Republican Party Convention elected Warren Clay Coleman unanimously as the party candidate for Cabarrus County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, in the 1890's he had considerable influence among fellow African Americans throughout the State of North Carolina as he was considered one of the richest African Americans in the south; and

WHEREAS, he was a staunch supporter of education. He assisted historically Black colleges and universities, such as Barber-Scotia College, Howard University, Livingstone College, and Shaw University. He made contributions to the North Carolina Oxford Orphans' Home and aided in the development of the "Coleman School" in Welford, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, being a spiritual entrepreneur – his philanthropy extended throughout the growth of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Concord. He assisted Zion Hill A.M.E. Zion, Rock Hill A.M.E. Zion, and Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion in which he was one of the founders; and

WHEREAS, Warren C. Coleman's major contribution was the employment opportunities presented via the organization of the Coleman Manufacturing Company; the nation's first Black owned and operated textile factory, located at the current site of Fieldcrest Cannon Plant #9 (Main Street and Highway 601 South, Concord); and

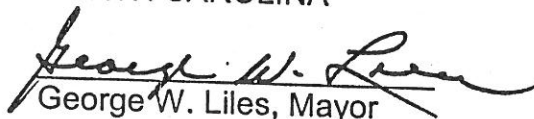
WHEREAS, through the humanitarian efforts of Warren C. Coleman, the social, political, economic and education level of citizens in Cabarrus County was lifted; and

WHEREAS, Warren Clay Coleman bequeathed to the citizens of Cabarrus County an exemplary legacy of inspiration and cultural pride;

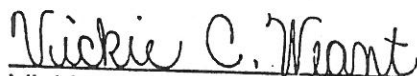
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Concord City Council hereby requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation rename the section of U.S. Highway 601, from Concord Parkway North to the southern city limits, to "Warren C. Coleman Boulevard".

Adopted this 10th day of February, 2000.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CONCORD
NORTH CAROLINA


George W. Liles, Mayor

ATTEST:


Vickie C. Weant, City Clerk