

**CLAYTON COUNTY RECOGNIZES
MR. LAWRENCE WILLIAMS, JR.
NEGRO LEAGUE PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL
PLAYER**

WHEREAS, Negro League Baseball recruited the most highly skilled, professional players, bringing thrills and innovative play to major urban centers and rural countrysides in the United States, Canada and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence “Pops” Williams, Jr., a native son and graduate of East Depot High School in LaGrange, Georgia, played Centerfield for the Negro World Series Champions, Kansas City Monarchs in 1954 and 1955; and

WHEREAS, During his tryout game with the Monarchs, his arm strength and athleticism were displayed when he caught a fly ball at the wall in deep center field and threw out a runner trying to advance from first base to second base on the play. When General Manager Buck O’Neil hired him as the leadoff hitter, he went four-for-four and had a perfect night with four doubles. His name will forever live in American history in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri and in the Michigan Softball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Monarchs team was sold in 1955, prompting Mr. Lawrence Williams, Jr. to relocate his family to Ypsilanti, Michigan. For the next thirty-five years, he worked for the Ford Motor Company building luxury cars before retiring to Riverdale, Georgia in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence Williams, Jr. remains a consummate advocate of the Negro Leagues. He currently serves as a volunteer coach at Mundy’s Mill High School where students and staff affectionately call him “Pops.” Mr. Lawrence Williams, Jr. celebrates eighty-one years of life and sixty-one years of marriage to his high school sweetheart, Juanita Towns Williams. They have five children, fourteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Now, Therefore I, Gail B. Hambrick, Commissioner of District 2, on behalf of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, do hereby honor the sacrifices made by Mr. Lawrence Williams, Jr. and players of Negro League Baseball. Their passion, dedication, and courage forever changed sports in the United States and created legions of baseball fans all over the world.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Clayton County, Georgia to be affixed this 18th day of February 2014.

Gail B. Hambrick, Commissioner