

*City of New Castle*



**Office of the Mayor  
& New Castle City  
Council**

**PROCLAMATION**

**Recognizing the Life and Legacy of the  
Honorable Marcellia "Teel" Petty.**

**WHEREAS**, Marcellia J. Petty, was born April 7th, 1941, in the Buttonwood neighborhood of New Castle, to Rev. Elliott and Indiaola Taylor; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty is part of the history of New Castle. As a lifelong resident of New Castle, she attended the historic Buttonwood Colored School and was one of the first African American students to integrate William Penn High School; and

**WHEREAS**, During her time at William Penn High School, Mrs. Petty was the first and only African American majorette during her tenure at William Penn; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty was a lifelong public servant who worked at the Colonial School District, and the Electric Hose and Rubber Company, served as the Director of the Buttonwood Civic Association, which preserved and restored the Buttonwood Colored School as a museum; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty continued her public service by serving the people of the City of New Castle as a City Council person for 12 years from 2005 through 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, During Mrs. Petty's time on City Council, she worked as the Liaison for Buildings, City Police, and Parks & Recreations where she organized the city Summer Recreation program. She also worked to provide maintenance to Battery Park, mitigate flooding in the city, and repair city streets. Mrs. Petty was dedicated to preserving City history while making improvements to the City. Mrs. Petty believed in a balance between the old and the new; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty also worked closely with other public servants such as Senators Chris Coons, Tom Carper, then Senator Joe Biden, Governors Ruth Ann Minner, John Carney, and Michael Castle. She also served Delawareans as a delegate at three Democratic National Conventions; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty was married to former New Castle City Police Chief Eugene Petty, who is part of New Castle's History in his own right. The two have served the City and the people of New Castle for many years, leaving a legacy in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Petty passed away on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 leaving her handprint and legacy on the City of New Castle; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Marcellia “Teel” Petty’s remarkable life touched and enriched the lives of many. Her absence; leaves a void that cannot be filled, and will be deeply felt by all who knew, loved, and admired her. We join her family and friends in celebrating a well-lived life and extend our heartfelt condolences to her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and their extended families as they remember her with pride and affection. Her absence will be felt in New Castle for many years as the loss of Mrs Petty is a profound loss to our community.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Valarie Leary, Mayor of the City of New Castle, along with the entire City Council, express our admiration and profound gratitude to Mrs. Marcellia “Teel” Petty.

With this proclamation, we thank Mrs. Marcellia “Teel” Petty for her service and dedication to the City of New Castle and

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of New Castle to be fixed this day, Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



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*Valarie Leary*

Mayor, City of New Castle  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Suzanne Souder, City Council President

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Joseph F. Day, III, Councilperson

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Nermin Zubaca, Councilperson

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Andrew Zeltt, Councilperson

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Brian Mattaway, Councilperson

Attest:

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Diane Delgado, City Clerk