

**CITY OF NEWPORT**  

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**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**OF THE**  
**C O U N C I L**  
**No.**

WHEREAS, the Honorable Paul L. Gaines, former Mayor of the City of Newport passed away on June 25, 2020; AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines, born in Newport, RI, attended the Newport Public Schools and graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in Education; AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines taught Social Studies, Health and Physical Education at Thompson Junior High School; and history at Rogers High Schools; AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines served on the Newport School Committee from 1968 to 1972; AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines, in 1977, became the first African American elected to the Newport City Council and in 1981, his fellow council members elected him Chairman of the City Council and Mayor of Newport. Mayor Gaines was the first African American mayor in New England; AND

WHEREAS, as a Rogers student, Mr. Gaines excelled as an all-state basketball and baseball player, he later served as the Head coach of the Rogers High School basketball team. In 2002, Mr. Gaines was inducted into the Newport Sports Hall of Fame; AND

WHEREAS, the Pell Elementary School was built in 2012, a Pell Technology fund was created and has received over \$900,000 in generous donations. The interest from these funds is used to purchase up to date technology for the Pell Elementary School; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, The Newport City Council pledges \$50,000 to the Pell Technology Fund over a multi-year period determined by City administration to honor Mayor Paul L Gaines by naming the Pell School Gymnasium the "Paul L Gaines Gymnasium" along with his photograph so that all Newport elementary students will know of Mayor Gaines' extraordinary life and his contributions to the City of Newport and the Newport Public Schools.

LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE  
SUSAN TAYLOR  
JEANNE MARIE NAPOLITANO  
JAMIE BOVA

IN COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED

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Laura C. Swistak  
City Clerk