

RESOLUTION 26-35: RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING SAMUEL E. LATHEM FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Samuel E. Lathem was appointed by Governor Ruth Ann Minner to serve as a Commissioner on the Delaware River and Bay Authority, participating in his first Commission meeting on June 19, 2001; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem was the first African American to serve on the bi-state agency's governing board, the first to be nominated and lead the Board as Chairman, and one of the longest-serving Commissioners in DRBA history; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem, who proudly served his country in the United States Army, dedicated nearly forty years to Chrysler Motors at the Newark, Delaware assembly plant, serving as an international UAW Representative, chief steward, and tireless advocate for organized labor until his retirement in 2004; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem further advanced the labor movement in Delaware as the first African American elected President of the Delaware State AFL-CIO from 2003 to 2015; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to civic and community service, contributing his leadership as an ordained Baptist minister, a lifetime member of the NAACP, and a dedicated board member for the Diamond State Port Corporation, United Way, and Junior Achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lathem provided vital oversight and leadership to the DRBA through major national challenges and capital landmarks, including the Economic Crisis of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Memorial Bridge (DMB) Steel Reinforcement/Blast Shield protection project, the DMB Cable Dehumidification project, the DMB Ship Collision Protection Project, the DMB Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) project, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry (CMLF) fleet modernization program, the Wilmington Airport (ILG) Terminal expansion, and new terminal facilities at Cape May (WWD) and Millville (MIV) Airports; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lathem willingly supplied his time, talents, and energy to the successful operation of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, Cape May - Lewes Ferry, Wilmington Airport, Millville Airport, Cape May Airport, Delaware Airpark, Civil Air Terminal at Dover, and the Forts Ferry Crossing, all of which are managed by the Delaware River and Bay Authority; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware River and Bay Authority does hereby praise and congratulate Samuel E. Lathem for the invaluable services rendered by him to the States of Delaware and New Jersey through his outstanding contributions as a Delaware River and Bay Authority Commissioner and does hereby record the Commissioners' sincere appreciation by the presentation of this Resolution, adopted today, July 21, 2026.

Resolution 26-35 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and was approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.