


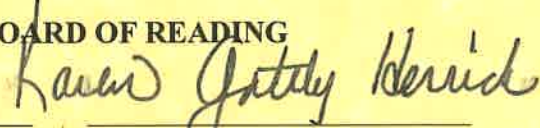
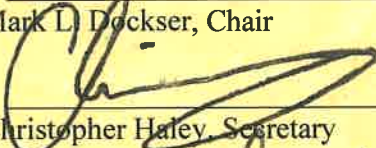
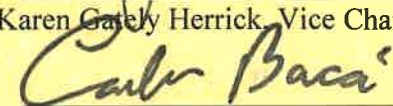
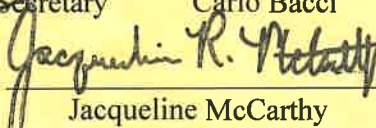
August 9, 2022

Reading Commemorates Bill Russell Resolution

- Whereas,** Bill Russell is widely considered to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time. Bill Russell is known for his contributions on and off the court. During part of the Celtic’s run of success, Russell and his family resided in Reading.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell is the greatest winner in the history of sports - winning 11 NBA championships as a player and a coach – including eight straight between 1958 and 1966 – as well as a gold medal at the 1956 Olympics. Bill Russell is a Five-time NBA MVP, and Twelve-time All Star, and the MVP trophy of the NBA Finals named in his honor. Bill Russell was also the first black head coach of a major league sports team and a strong advocate for mentorship.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, in 2011. President Barack Obama honored him as “someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men.”
- Whereas,** Bill Russell was well recognized as a civil rights icon. Bill Russell took part in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and was seated in the front row of the crowd to hear the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream” speech.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell died on Sunday, July 31, 2022 at the age of 88.
- Whereas,** The Select Board of the Town of Reading honors his civil rights legacy by actively supporting the vision of an inclusive and welcoming community; celebrates Bill Russell’s life, his impact on our community, his impact on race relations, as well as his unparalleled success on the basketball court; and supports efforts to learn from and gain inspiration from his values as he lived them. Our world and our town are better places because of his tireless efforts

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Reading Select Board, decree that a day be designated as Bill Russell Day, and that the Town Manager be instructed to designate such date by appropriate recognition and ceremonies.

SELECT BOARD OF READING

 _____ Mark L. Dockser, Chair	 _____ Karen Gately Herrick, Vice Chair
 _____ Christopher Haley, Secretary	 _____ Carlo Bacci
 _____ Jacqueline McCarthy	