

**WHEREAS**, Rita Ellis dedicated her life to the service and betterment of Delray Beach, becoming the city's first elected female Mayor in 2007, following her tenure as a City Commissioner beginning in 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, her leadership was marked by a collaborative spirit, thoughtful decision-making, and a deep commitment to the community, earning her the respect and admiration of colleagues and residents alike; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to her public service, Rita was a successful business leader, owning Climate Control Services, and actively contributing to local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Beach Property Owners Association; and

**WHEREAS**, her passion for Delray Beach was evident through her participation in city visioning events and her continuous efforts to shape the city's future; and

**WHEREAS**, Rita's legacy as a trailblazer and dedicated public servant serves as an inspiration to women and all individuals striving to make a positive impact in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Delray Beach recognizes the importance of honoring those who have significantly contributed to the community, especially during Women's History Month; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Commission of Delray Beach does hereby proclaim March 27, 2025, as a day to honor **Rita Ellis**, celebrating her remarkable contributions and enduring legacy in our city.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FORMER MAYOR RITA ELLIS**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

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**THOMAS F. CARNEY, JR.**  
**MAYOR**