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**Proclamation**

**Celebrating Roger Desiderio**

 **WHEREAS,** in December 2023,Roger Desiderio, Maplewood’s longest serving Township Attorney, retired after 30 years of service; and,

 **WHEREAS**, since being appointed in 1994 by Mayor Ellen Davenport and the Township Committee, Roger served nine mayors and 25 Township Committee members and attended more than 750 Township Committee meetings, amounting to over 3,000 hours spent at governing body meetings alone; and,

 **WHEREAS**, anyone who has worked with Roger knows, his day did not end when Town Hall closed or a meeting concluded. He consistently advised newly elected and appointed officials, walking them through Township policies and procedures and county, state, and federal government laws and regulations; and,

 **WHEREAS,** Roger has been a teacher and a mentor. He understands that we run for office because of our passion for change and desire to get things done. Roger helped us refine our dreams and expectations into ordinances and resolutions and into ideas and actions. He also encouraged us to ask questions so that we would further understand how government works – both in terms of the law and the bureaucracy; and,

 **WHEREAS**, Roger has been a tireless and passionate advocate for Maplewood and its residents, always standing up for what is right, just, fair and legal; and

 **WHEREAS,** Roger served with integrity, distinction and humility. He was always honest in his interactions with the Township Committee and held his ground when necessary, often providing an answer someone may not have wanted to hear. And that was not an easy task since he was up for appointment every year and he had to deal with many different personalities on the Committee. Nevertheless, during his 30 years Roger was a consummate professional and served the Township Committee very well.

 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT** the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood thanks Roger Desiderio for his 30 years of service to Maplewood and recognizes the many contributions Roger has made to improve our community and make life better for all our residents. We value Roger as a friend and colleague and appreciate all he has done. Enjoy your retirement.

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