



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Kelly Rossman-McKinney was a trailblazer in Michigan’s public relations industry; and

Whereas, Kelly was drawn to public service, working in both the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate before joining Governor Jim Blanchard’s administration, as the communications director for the newly created Michigan Youth Corps and then as the lead in the Office of Michigan Products; and

Whereas, Kelly, as a single mom, earned her Accreditation in Public Relations and sparked an entire industry from her kitchen table with a unique approach to public relations that inspired other women to turn their own passions into careers to make the world a better place; and

Whereas, Kelly, well known for her unique approach to public relations with a dedication to ethics and professionalism, embodied the spirit of bipartisanship and built relationships with lawmakers and staff from both parties, eventually merging her talents with John Truscott to create a statewide strategic communications firm with offices in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing; and

Whereas, Kelly worked to improve government transparency for the betterment of Michigan and her citizens during her time inside government and after; and

Whereas, Kelly enjoyed breaking glass ceilings and was one of the first women allowed into the Rotary Club, received an Athena award, and was known for always finding the time to mentor and support others with her quick wit and sharp humor; and

Whereas, Kelly led by example, volunteering on many boards, including the Citizens Research Council, as a way to educate lawmakers, inform the public, and shine a light on the role government transparency has on our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Citizens Research Council celebrates Kelly Rossman-McKinney in memoriam by naming her as the 2022 “Eugene A. Gargaro, Jr. Public Service Award” recipient on this Wednesday, September 21, 2022.