

City of Fort Lauderdale *Honored Founder*

PROCLAMATION HONORING RAMOLA AND THE LATE RAMESH “BOB” MOTWANI AS HONORED FOUNDERS FOR 2018

- WHEREAS,** *Ramola and the late Ramesh “Bob” Motwani were born and raised in India; were married 16 years; have two children, Nitin and Dev; and three grandchildren, Arin, Shaan, and Kayam; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ramola and Bob Motwani’s business careers in the U.S. started in St. Charles, Missouri with an import/export business; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The late Bob Motwani moved his family from Missouri to Fort Lauderdale Beach in the mid-80s where they began acquiring small hotels along A1A, including the Merrimac and the Gold Coast Beach Resort; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Motwani family has been instrumental in transforming Fort Lauderdale Beach into the world-class international tourism destination it is today; and*
- WHEREAS,** *After Bob passed away in 1994, his wife, Ramola Motwani, took control of the family business and, while raising two sons, continued to pursue the family’s vision of making Fort Lauderdale Beach a must-see, family-oriented vacation destination; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ramola Motwani earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Jai Hind College, and later a law degree from the Government Law College in Mumbai, India; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Today, Ramola Motwani is the Chairwoman and CEO of Merrimac Ventures, one of South Florida’s leading real estate management, investment, and development businesses. The company has more than 100 employees and currently oversees major projects including the Four Seasons Hotel and Private Residences, the Paramount Fort Lauderdale, the Gale Boutique Hotel and Residences, and the Flagler Village Hotel in downtown; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ramola and her family donate their time, talent, resources, and energy to numerous civic endeavors including the City of Fort Lauderdale’s Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board, the Fort Lauderdale Beach Business Improvement District, the Tourist Development Council, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the Broward Workshop, the Orange Bowl Host Committee, the City’s Citizen Volunteer Corps, and more; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ramola has received numerous awards and accolades including the Salute to Business Award from the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, she was named Woman of Distinction by the March of Dimes, she received the Ultimate CEO Award from the South Florida Business Journal, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame by Nova Southeastern University’s H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Motwani family was instrumental in helping to create the annual Beach Holiday Lighting Ceremony, they spearheaded the planning of the City’s Centennial Beachfest Celebration, and led the effort to successfully bring the Fort Lauderdale Air Show back to Fort Lauderdale; and*
- WHEREAS,** *For more than 30 years, the Motwani’s have been ambassadors for the City of Fort Lauderdale and have served as exemplary role models through their dedication, professionalism, determination, and commitment to our community. Their contributions to our city demonstrate the steadfastness of a family that works together through adversity to put their indelible mark on Fort Lauderdale to ensure our city is the “City You Never Want to Leave.”*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

- Section 1:** *That Ramola and the late Ramesh (Bob) Motwani are hereby selected and honored as Honored Founders of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2018 in recognition of their many accomplishments and valuable contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale and that the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby publicly recognizes and acknowledges these achievements and contributions and does hereby express its heartfelt appreciation to Ramola and Ramesh (Bob).*
- Section 2:** *That a keepsake honoring Ramola and Ramesh (Bob) as Honored Founders of the City of Fort Lauderdale for 2018 shall be presented to Ramola and her family, and a plaque shall be placed in the lobby of Fort Lauderdale City Hall.*
- Section 3:** *That a copy of this proclamation recognizing Ramola and Ramesh (Bob) Motwani as the 2018 Honored Founders shall be presented to Ramola and her family as a further token of the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the City of Fort Lauderdale.*




Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

