

May 16, 2018

The Business Record
The Depot at 4th
100 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Attn: The Women of Influence Selection Committee

It is a privilege to recommend Diana Willits as a 2018 Women of Influence Award recipient. For 12 years, I served the community of Windsor Heights with Diana - four years as fellow city council members and eight years while she served on the city council and I was mayor. In her years of public service, Diana has given the city of Windsor Heights her time, her energy and her heart.

Diana was involved in every major decision impacting the city of Windsor Heights during her years of service. She shaped what Windsor Heights is today. All the benefits and quality of life that the community enjoys can be traced back to Diana's commitment and vision to make Windsor Heights a great place to live and raise a family. She was a critical part of the redevelopment of Colby Park, the construction of the city's bike trail, the implementation of the West Help Home Improvement program and in securing Windsor Heights's own zip code in 2008.

Windsor Heights had never had a dedicated zip code. It had two prior to that time - one shared with Urbandale (50322) and the other shared with Des Moines (50311). As far as the USPS was concerned, Windsor Heights didn't have its own identity. Diana recognized this as an underlying issue for the city and worked for years to create 50324 - the community's own zip and USPS identification. It was no small feat and she worked tirelessly to get the support from Representative Leonard Boswell and push it through the US Federal government.

In addition to being committed to Windsor Heights 100% of the time, she had a demanding career at Meredith Corporation, was raising two daughters with her husband and volunteered with her church. Looking back, I am astounded how she always gave everything her all and approached even the toughest of situations with an amazing can-do attitude.

Diana not only helped make Windsor Heights a better community, she also instilled in her daughters the importance of civic duty. Diana's husband, Jim, and both her daughters volunteered right alongside her at our Fourth of July celebrations, Music in the Park, Windsor Heights Spring Clean up and countless other events. She instilled not only a sense of community pride within her daughters, but also, they grew up understanding the importance of giving back. They couldn't be prouder of their mother and look up to her as shining example of servant leadership.

I can't think of anyone more deserving of the Business Record Woman of Influence honor. Diana's impact on the community of Windsor Heights will be felt for generations.

Sincerely,



Jerry Sullivan
Former Mayor of Windsor Heights