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**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay, Supervisor Lusk, and  
Supervisor Storck**

**Proclaiming January 16, 2024, as a National Day of Racial Healing  
in Fairfax County**

Members of the Board,

The National Day of Racial Healing, commemorated annually, is part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) efforts to restore individuals and communities to wholeness by repairing the damages caused by racism. It facilitates trust, builds authentic relationships, and bridges divides, which is the work that leads to community, organizational, and systems transformation, and racial equity. It is a time to acknowledge our shared values and create a blueprint together for how we heal from the effects of racism. TRHT is a comprehensive, community-based process to bring about transformational and sustainable change. Through TRHT, the historic and contemporary effects of racism in communities and institutions are addressed. TRHT works to replace the deeply held belief systems that fuel racism with ones that see the inherent value of all people. This holistic approach addresses mind and heart, the interpersonal and systemic, and places the power of authentic, trust-based solidarity at the center.

Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) has partnered with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) THRT Campus Center to commemorate The National Day of Racial Healing and use community development to promote racial healing, transform communities, and build social capital. NOVA is one of 62 colleges and universities selected by the American Association of Colleges and Universities to host THRT Campus Centers. The campus centers help prepare the next generation of leaders to break down systemic racism and dismantle a hierarchy of human values through THRT circles. Racism impacts all of us, whether we are aware of it or not. Systemically, racism is one of the biggest obstacles to solving the challenges we face in our communities. Through NOVA's THRT Campus Center racial healing circles, participants build relationships, trust, and collective power at the community and institutional levels. These relationships lay the groundwork for powerful systemic change, as community partners re-envision and reshape their institutions, policies, and practices to address racism and racial healing. This is aligned with NCS' mission to promote equity and create positive outcomes for people of all ages and abilities. It also aligns with Fairfax County's One Equity Policy.

The NCS and NOVA partnership will collectively impact the racial healing and trust-building needed in communities to achieve transformational changes in policy and practices as they commemorate The National Day of Racial Healing.

Therefore, we move without objection, that we direct the Office of Public Affairs to prepare a proclamation recognizing January 16, 2024, as a National Day of Racial Healing in Fairfax County. The proclamation will be presented to NCS and NOVA representatives outside the Board room.