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**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and Supervisors Alcorn, Bierman,
Herrity, Jimenez, Lusk, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw
Recognizing Sarah Allen**

Members of the Board,

After 25 years of dedicated service, Sarah Allen will be retiring this summer. Sarah has been an exceptional leader since her start in Fairfax County in 1998. She has shown unwavering commitment to serving our community and has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication and initiative throughout her tenure, which concludes with her most recent role as Deputy Director of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

One of Sarah's many remarkable achievements was her pivotal role in spearheading the creation and implementation of COVID-19 pandemic-related grants and financial support for our most vulnerable community members. This support, which totaled over \$140 million, included the basic needs funding allocated to community-based organizations, the two Nonprofit Sustainability Grants, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the Emergency Rental Assistance Bridge Program, the Active and Thriving Communities Grant Program, and the Childcare Provider Grant Program. Through Sarah's leadership, countless individuals and families have been able to access basic and essential resources and maintain stability in their homes.

Additionally, utilizing lessons learned during the pandemic, Sarah has been at the forefront of the County's efforts to address housing instability post-pandemic, leading the development of enhanced rental assistance efforts. Her proactive approach to connecting at-risk renters with financial resources and legal assistance has been invaluable in protecting the well-being of vulnerable members of our community.

Sarah has fostered strong partnerships with community-based organizations, significantly enhancing the capacities of our nonprofit and faith community networks to address emerging community needs. Her efforts have facilitated the development of robust infrastructure, resources, and expertise that are vital for effective community response and support.

Throughout Sarah's career she has consistently exemplified excellence and dedication. Her tireless efforts and outstanding leadership have had a profound and lasting impact on our community. Sarah personifies the 'can do' attitude that is invaluable in every individual, especially among leaders like herself.

Therefore, I move to recognize Sarah Allen for her many years of dedicated service and for the immense impact she has made on our community and request that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented outside the Board room.