



Commonwealth of Virginia

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Board Matter

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Mr. Chairman – The third week of May, 2023, is Business Continuity Awareness Week. For those who may not be familiar, business continuity describes an organization's ability to withstand and recover from physical threats, such as natural disasters and security breaches, as well as risks related to technology, operations, and reputational damage. According to the Insurance Institute, "up to 40% of businesses affected by a natural or man-made disaster never reopen."

Governments like ours have played a key role in the development and promotion of resilience. The establishment of national emergency management frameworks and implementation of risk mitigation strategies come in the aftermath of World War II, when governments recognized the need to ensure the continuity of critical infrastructure and essential services during times of crisis. Here in Fairfax County, we focused on our ability to continue county operations and providing services via the county's Continuity program and its associated programs.

Fairfax County's Business Continuity Program assists businesses in the County to increase their resiliency through the Business Disaster Resilience Guide.

Implementing a business preparedness plan to ensure that each component of a business is prepared to respond and recover from a disruption is vital to securing business continuity. By working together, we can ensure that Fairfax is prepared and resilient in the face of ongoing challenges, contributing to the stability and sustainability of our economy and society.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation in recognition of the essential work done by the Department of Emergency Management and Security to ensure business continuity. This proclamation will be presented at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors during May of this year.