



**Commonwealth of Virginia**

**RODNEY L. LUSK**

**Fairfax County, Franconia District Supervisor  
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310**



Mr. Chairman,

In Fairfax County, we have been taking important steps to preserve African American culture. The History Commission assisted in this goal by forming the Fairfax County African American History Inventory Committee to collect, communicate and preserve African American culture and history. When speaking about the commitment to make certain that the contributions and efforts of African American residents in Fairfax County past and present are recognized, we must acknowledge Phyllis Walker Ford. Ms. Walker Ford was appointed to the History Commission in February 2009 and was co-chair with Mary Lipsey on the American History Inventory Committee. After thirteen years of committed service, she has recently decided to step down from the History Commission. Phyllis has been an outstanding advocate and contributor in preserving accurate information vital to our county's history.

Phyllis is also President of Laurel Grove School Association, the governing body of Laurel Grove School Museum located in Franconia, Virginia. She serves as Vice President of Virginia Africana Associates, a network of museum, history, and preservation professionals. Additionally, Phyllis is a member of the Education Committee of The League of Descendants of the Enslaved at Mount Vernon. Her ancestors, Dick and Charity Jasper, were enslaved on Washington's Dogue Run Farm. In May of 2022, Phyllis organized a tombstone cleaning project to clean stones at Laurel Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. This project included Mary Lipsey, President of Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. who demonstrated the proper cleaning process, and Volunteers from National Council of Negro Women. Additionally, Phyllis was President of the Franconia Museum from 2004 – 2008 where she still volunteers to this day.

Mr. Chairman and fellow board members, in honor of Phyllis Walker Ford's extraordinary contributions to our African American history and her over 13 years of service on the History Commission, I move that a proclamation be prepared to be presented to Phyllis Walker Ford at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Supervisors.