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**BOARD MATTER**

**Virginia Library Association Awards Miriam Smolen 2020 Trustee Library Award**

Members of the Board,

I am very proud to share that Miriam Smolen was chosen by the Virginia Library Association (VLA) for the 2020 Library Trustee Award. Miriam has served on the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees since 2014, where she served as Vice Chair in 2017 and as Chair from 2018 through 2020. She continues to serve on the Board as the Providence District representative.

Miriam believes that our libraries are a foundation of our public life and therefore, wants to support this jewel of a public resource. She is most proud of the work the Board of Trustees has done in advocating for more library resources for the whole community. During her tenure as chair, the library received support from the Board of Supervisors to expand and standardize library hours. This advocacy is one of her most important contributions.

Miriam was selected for her invaluable contributions to the Fairfax County Library, her colleagues on the board, and the greater community. She has worked diligently building relationships and bridging divides to accomplish her present and future goals of expanding both ongoing funding for the Fairfax County Public Library system and community access to library services by increasing branch hours. During these challenging times for library funding and support, her past work will provide a strong foundation for budget planning when it is time to request funding for the library system in future fiscal years.

Therefore, I ask without objection, that we recognize Miriam Smolen for her outstanding service and for receiving the 2020 Library Trustee Award from the Virginia Library Association.