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**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and Supervisors Alcorn, Bierman,
Herrity, Jimenez, Lusk, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw
Proclaiming January 21, 2025 as National Day of Racial Healing
in Fairfax County**

Members of the Board,

The National Day of Racial Healing, commemorated annually since 2017, is part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing, and 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 the divides that lead to racial equity in communities, organizations, and systems. It is a time to acknowledge our shared values and inspire collective action to create a more equitable world.

Last year, the Board recognized the partnership between Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and Northern Virginia Community College (NoVA) in their efforts to promote racial healing and upward mobility in pursuit of a more equitable, just, and inclusive community. In the summer of 2024, NoVA and NCS collaborated to offer the NoVA Connect (Cultivating, Opportunities for Networking, Nurturing, Education, and Community Togetherness) Program with the overall goal of introducing minority adult learners to a greater range of life and work experiences by offering higher educational spaces than might be provided at traditional-age college campuses. This program allows students to achieve higher education by removing barriers such as isolation from socioeconomic opportunities, food insecurity, affordable housing, proximity to colleges, and concentrated poverty. This partnership will continue to offer community programs and staff development opportunities in TRHT to engage communities across the county in healing circles, career development, and social networking.

NCS has also included age-appropriate activities into their programs at community, adult day health, senior, teen center, and SACC centers county-wide, encouraging participants to find psychologically safe spaces for healing and addressing harm. Efforts are underway to develop an action plan for 2025 to commemorate the day and activate programs that continue to promote Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation. NoVA and the Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) will host a series of events on the week of January 20, 2025.

Activities kick off on January 21 where Inclusive Engagement Targeted Interventions (IETI) staff will support NCS teams and partners in providing resources and activities for implementation across the county. On January 22, NoVA's Truth and Racial Healing Transformation Center (TRHTC) will host a webinar featuring a panel discussion on racial healing topics. The week concludes with a National Day of Service on January 25, where registered youth will engage in breakout sessions facilitated by NoVA TRHTC and IETI staff, followed by assembling 1,000 emergency preparedness kits for DEMS. Looking ahead, NCS and TRHTC will host a spring training for staff and community partners on facilitating Healing Circles – safe spaces for fostering connection and shared humanity through storytelling.

Therefore, we move, without objection, that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented in the Board room designating January 21, 2025 as a Day of Racial Healing in Fairfax County.