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**Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Jimenez and Supervisor Walkinshaw
Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Congregation Olam Tikvah**

Members of the Board,

We are fortunate to have houses of worship in the Providence District and Fairfax County that provide vital community outreach and support, significantly enhancing the lives of our residents. Among these, Congregation Olam Tikvah has been a cornerstone of community service in Fairfax County and the surrounding areas for the past 60 years.

Established on May 24, 1964, Congregation Olam Tikvah was founded through the efforts of 100 “charter member” families who joined the original six families in Fairfax County. Together, they recognized the need for a synagogue to serve the communities of Kings Park, Springfield, Fairfax, and Annandale, laying the groundwork for a new place of worship.

In its first decade, the synagogue not only established a thriving preschool for children ages 2-5, independent of synagogue membership, but also secured a permanent location, hired staff and permanent clergy, and established religious education programs and worship opportunities.

Throughout the decades, Congregation Olam Tikvah (OT) members have increasingly reached out to support other members of the Fairfax community. OT's Social Action program is committed to tikkun olam (repairing the world) and projects are done throughout the year to benefit the community. They have partnered with existing organizations and projects dedicated to various community needs, providing aid to children and families facing food insecurity, organizing blood, food, and clothing drives, and offering Christmas and winter outreach for unhoused persons. Their efforts also include supplying Christmas toys and hygiene care boxes for unhoused persons and others in need. In addition to visiting Fairfax County

shelters to provide meals, activities, and gifts; congregants have assisted newly arrived Afghan families in settling into Fairfax County by partnering with the Regional Older Adult Facilities Mental Health Support Team. They also participate in social, educational, and philanthropic events with Interfaith Communities for Dialogue.

Currently, under the leadership of Rabbi David Kalender and Assistant Rabbi Viktoria Bedo, Olam Tikvah's first permanent Rabbi Itzhaq M. Klirs led the congregation from 1967 to 1994. Guided by strong rabbinic leadership and supported by a highly engaged Social Action Committee, as well as the Synagogue's Men's Club, Sisterhood, Religious School, and congregants, Congregation Olam Tikvah has consistently responded to community needs, finding new ways to strengthen and supplement existing programs.

Therefore, I move that a proclamation be prepared in recognition of the 60th anniversary of Congregation Olam Tikvah and its invaluable service to the Fairfax County community, to be presented during its Annual Congregation meeting on June 9th, 2024.