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**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay, Supervisors Alcorn, Foust,
Gross, Herrity, Lusk, Smith, Storck, and Walkinshaw
Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's 60th Anniversary**

Members of the Board,

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV), established in 1962, has a mission to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English so they can better access employment and educational opportunities and more fully and equitably participate in the community.

LCNV is proud to have served nearly 60,000 beginning-level English language and literacy adult learners in its 60 years. Their programs are focused on best practices in research-based pedagogy and provide student-centered instruction. This entails assessing each adult, placing him or her at the appropriate level within the learning continuum, gearing instruction to personal learning goals, and addressing special learning needs or disabilities. They also provide an opportunity for many working age and retired county residents to serve as trained volunteer teachers.

One of their recent initiatives is Destination Workforce®. This is a program that delivers language-based workforce training that teaches industry-recognized credential training in addition to the language skills necessary to obtain, succeed, and advance in many entry level jobs. With these courses, adults learn critical language and soft skills, while leveraging their employability and marketability. LCNV collaborates with businesses interested in upskilling their employees and committed to addressing barriers for low-wage employees to

advance in the workforce. Such partners include Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, BF Saul Company Hospitality Group, Capital One, Centreville Immigration Forum, DoubleTree by Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, José Andrés ThinkFoodGroup, and Korean Community Service Center Job Readiness Project.

LCNV says that that literacy is a survival skill. Never has that been more true than this past couple of years, where filling out online vaccination forms, and going to the doctor, or COVID testing became part of the new normal. Language is integral to our own health and safety.

LCNV will be hosting two in-person events to celebrate their 60th anniversary. First is their breakfast fundraiser, A Taste of Literacy, on March 25 from 8am to 9:30am where we will hear from students, instructors, and partners who have worked together to break down barriers and to overcome obstacles. And their Annual Recognition Ceremony will be on the evening of June 21. More details on that to come.

Therefore, I move without objection that the Board recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's contributions to the community and request that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a proclamation to be presented at LCNV's Annual Recognition Ceremony on June 21st.