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**Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Walkinshaw
Recognizing Judge Gayl Y. Branum Carr**

Members of the Board,

After 30 years as a judge on the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Judge Gayl Carr is retiring at the end of this month. During her tenure, she has significantly helped improve access to justice, informed decision-making, and outcomes by implementing evidence-based practices. Beyond her judicial duties, she mentored middle and high school students, law students, and others about pursuing law careers and a pathway to the bench. In addition, Judge Carr developed the court's "Kid's Bench," a community collaborative effort that promotes literacy, encourages reading, facilitates attachment bonds, and provides free books to children who come to court with a parent or other adult. This initiative is in a trauma-informed space in the courthouse lobby.

Judge Carr is the first Black female judge in the history of Fairfax County paving the path for many other attorneys and judges. Before her appointment to the bench, she served as Fairfax County Assistant County Attorney, responsible for prosecuting civil cases including child dependency matters or guardianship petitions involving adult elder care for abuse or neglect.

Judge Carr also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia, handling civil representation for litigation in state and federal courts about claims for money damages and civil rights issues against state agencies including the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Virginia Parole Board.

Judge Carr is active in teaching and training. She teaches new Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges about child support and frequently trains judges, substitute judges, attorneys, teachers, social workers, law enforcement officers, clerks of court, probation officers, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) among others.

Throughout her distinguished career, Judge Carr has received several awards and honors, including the Fairfax Bar Association's 2024 Arnold B. Kassabian Award and the Fairfax County Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence Community Vanguard Award in 2023. Additionally, she started "Brown Bag Lunches" to provide further training and education to court-appointed counsel and *Guardian ad Litem* (GAL) for civil, delinquency, and criminal matters.

Therefore, without objection, I move that a proclamation be prepared and presented to Judge Gayl Branum Carr at her retirement celebration to honor her many years of dedicated service in Fairfax County in the perseverance of good and justice.