

## Faith Communities and Partnerships Recognition

MOTION: Mr. Chairman, in an effort to recognize the profound impact of faith communities and people of faith on Fairfax County and its residents, as well as to raise awareness of Fairfax County's Office of Community Interfaith Coordination, I move that we invite faith community and faith-based nonprofit leaders before the Board to receive the attached proclamation at a date to be determined with the Chairman's Office and the Office of Public Affairs.

### RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, throughout Fairfax County's history, faith communities have played a vital role in shaping the cultural, social, and ethical landscape of our community, fostering the development of the arts, education, and sciences; and

WHEREAS, historical figures from Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, including George Washington, George Mason, and Thomas Jefferson, played key roles in advancing the concept of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has long partnered with faith groups to strengthen individuals, families, and communities by addressing food insecurity, providing affordable housing, improving public safety, delivering health care services, caring for our natural environment, supporting young people in need, and more, thereby demonstrating the profound impact that such partnerships can deliver; and

WHEREAS, individual houses of worship and religious groups have created independent community-focused organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, the ADAMS Center Fairfax, as well as a diverse set of interfaith community groups such as the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) and Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), all of which bring their faiths individually or collectively together to celebrate their diverse faiths and to improve our community; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has adopted the One Fairfax policy that promotes "a county where everyone can participate and prosper" and that, for many, is accomplished through faith-inspired works and philanthropic efforts; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County encourages participation in important community challenges and opportunities through Fairfax County's Office of Community Interfaith Coordination, Faith Communities in Action Network, Faith and Equity Committee, and Clergy and Leadership Council, which work to foster interfaith communication and cooperation, and to provide a faith perspective to human services; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents, acknowledges and appreciates the profound impact of faith communities, faith-based nonprofits, and people of faith on Fairfax County and its residents, and recognizes the critical role

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that such communities play in ensuring that all residents of Fairfax County are supported and empowered to thrive.