

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – JULY 2020

WHEREAS, July has been designated as the National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in honor of Bebe Moore Campbell, an African American author and journalist, who sought to eliminate mental health stigma in the black community; and

WHEREAS, historically African Americans have been and continue to be negatively affected by racism, prejudice, bias and discrimination in the public health care system; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to eliminate racial disparities in mental health by ensuring equity, access to quality care, culturally competent providers, and services and supports that respect cultural experiences; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter and Black Mental Health Matters too. The effect of racism and racial trauma on mental health is valid and should not be disregarded. Racism undermines mental health, and we must continue the work towards addressing individual, structural and systemic racism in our community as it relates to mental health; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Brave Souls on Fire and the Central Virginia Clinicians of Color Network (CVCCN) remain fully committed to support and mental health advocacy for African Americans, including recent collaborative efforts to establish a black mental health center;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Nikuyah Walker, Mayor of the City of Charlottesville, and the Council of the City of Charlottesville, do hereby proclaim July as Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in Charlottesville, Virginia, thereby encouraging citizens to help spread the word through awareness, education, support, advocacy and commitment to equity.

Signed and sealed this 20th day of July, 2020.

Nikuyah Walker
Mayor