

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

HONORING JOY JOHNSON UPON RECEIVING THE 2021 CUSHING DOLBEARE LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD BY THE NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

WHEREAS, Joy Amaryllis Johnson is a longtime resident of Charlottesville and a dedicated advocate for public and low-income housing residents; and,

WHEREAS, Joy co-founded the Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR) in 1998 and currently serves as Chair of the PHAR Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, under Joy's leadership, PHAR has become a nationally recognized model for resident advocacy and engagement, with a significant track record of accomplishment in influencing policy outcomes by educating residents about their rights and involving residents in the decisions that affect their lives; and,

WHEREAS, PHAR's successful effort to engage residents in the revitalization of public housing communities in Charlottesville through the "Resident-Directed Positive Vision for Redevelopment" has resulted in an unprecedented level of resident participation and influence in the transformation of South First Street, Crescent Halls, and conversation about future redevelopment projects; and,

WHEREAS, Joy also served for many years in a critical community outreach role with the Westhaven Nursing Clinic, ensuring access to essential health care services for low-income households and organizing the annual Westhaven Community Day and other neighborhood programs and activities; and,

WHEREAS, Joy has served on numerous local and national boards and commissions, consistently bringing an unparalleled vision and passion for social justice and racial equity to her work; and,

WHEREAS, Joy is a proud mother, grandmother, and a beloved friend to many; and,

WHEREAS, Joy is an inspiration to many community members who are embarking on their journey of activism to improve the lives of others; and,

WHEREAS, Joy through her unwavering perseverance to housing justice over the past twenty years is an example of the value that self-sacrifice brings to the lives of others; and,

WHEREAS, for all her tremendous achievements as a community leader and housing advocate, Joy was honored with the prestigious Cushing Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award by the National Low Income Housing Coalition on April 28, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Nikuyah Walker, Mayor of the City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville City Council, hereby commend Joy Johnson upon receiving the well-deserved Cushing Dolbeare Lifetime Service Award and thank Joy for her many years of leadership and advocacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in honor of her many contributions and accomplishments, the Charlottesville City Council hereby declares May 3, 2021, to be "Joy Johnson Day" in the City of Charlottesville.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of May 2021.

Nikuyah Walker, Mayor