

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5207

Offered September 15, 2014

Commending the Neighborhood Conservation Program.

Patrons—Lopez, Hope, Krupicka and Sullivan; Senators: Ebbin, Favola and Howell

WHEREAS, for 50 years, the Neighborhood Conservation Program in Arlington County has partnered with community residents to identify and carry out neighborhood improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Conservation Program was established by an Arlington County resident in 1964 to undertake small beautification projects; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the Neighborhood Conservation Program served three neighborhoods with a budget of \$400,000; by 2014, more than 50 neighborhoods benefited from \$11 million in program funds; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the Neighborhood Conservation Program has invested over \$67 million in residential neighborhoods, completed over 550 projects, installed more than 200 neighborhood signs, and constructed multiple miles of sidewalks, significantly increasing pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Conservation Program is the only program in Arlington County specifically dedicated to maintaining and improving residential neighborhoods; residents value the program because it empowers them to guide planning efforts and improvement projects in their own neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Conservation Program builds consensus by using a grassroots collaborative process that gives all residents an opportunity to participate; residents write new Neighborhood Conservation Plans and update older ones through an enormous, collaborative volunteer effort by residents in each neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Conservation Plans are documents in which residents outline their strengths and weaknesses, areas for improvement, and types of projects that will enhance their community and meet the needs of the residents; over 70 new and updated neighborhood plans have been completed; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood improvements include park enhancements, LED streetlight installation, neighborhood beautification, neighborhood sign installation, and sidewalk, curb, and gutter installation; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Conservation Program projects are a true collaborative effort between Neighborhood Conservation Program and Arlington County Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation, and Department of Environmental Services (DES) staff, who work together to implement community-based projects; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Conservation Program is a unique approach that allows residents to give input on the needs for each project; other localities have modeled programs after the Neighborhood Conservation Program in order to encourage greater civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the program is critical to maintaining the outstanding quality of life Arlington County residents enjoy and contributes to the character and appeal of its neighborhoods; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Neighborhood Conservation Program in Arlington County on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Tim McIntosh, program manager for the Neighborhood Conservation Program, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and appreciation for the program's commitment to making Arlington County's residential neighborhoods a great place to live through a meaningful partnership with community members.

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