

## 2016 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 151

Offered February 9, 2016

*Commending Leila Gordon.*

Patrons—Howell; Delegate: Plum

WHEREAS, Leila Gordon, a dedicated volunteer and a passionate supporter of the arts, was honored by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones, Inc., with a prestigious 2016 Best of Reston Award in the Individual Community Leader category; and

WHEREAS, the Best of Reston awards honor individuals, organizations, and companies that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to helping others and improving the lives of people throughout the greater Reston area; and

WHEREAS, as director of the Reston Community Center since 2008, Leila Gordon has provided a model for business, nonprofit, and government leaders by building strong partnerships with other organizations to expand the center's mission and to serve better all residents of Reston; and

WHEREAS, working with the Initiative for Public Art - Reston, Leila Gordon helped develop the first public art master plan for an unincorporated community in the country and served as chair of the Master Arts Plan Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Leila Gordon earned national recognition for her efforts at Reston Community Center to engage with local artists and support an expanded role for the Greater Reston Arts Center in local schools; she created new opportunities for local youth by establishing afterschool activities and the annual Reston Camp Expo; and

WHEREAS, Leila Gordon has conducted exceptional outreach to the homeless and other underserved members of the Reston community; she played a critical role in successful efforts by multiple county agencies to address public concerns about safety in the Hunter Mill neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, as a member and leader of the Reston 50/25 Committee, Leila Gordon shepherded a multiyear project to complete the documentary film, *Another Way of Living: The Story of Reston, VA*, which was screened in 2014 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the community and the 100th birthday of founder Robert E. Simon, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Leila Gordon has partnered with numerous other organizations to further honor the Reston Community Center's motto of "Bringing People Together All Over Town"; her insightful leadership has broken down barriers to ensure a healthier, stronger community for future generations of Restonians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Leila Gordon for her efforts to support and strengthen the arts community and on her well-deserved honor as a 2016 Best of Reston Award recipient in the Individual Community Leader category; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Leila Gordon as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her enduring commitment to making Reston a special place to live, work, and play.

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