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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 399

Offered February 27, 2018

Commending the Historic Triangle Covenant.

Patrons—Mullin; Senator: Mason

WHEREAS, the Historic Triangle Covenant, an agreement between community leaders and law-enforcement officers to build strong ties based on mutual respect and to enhance the quality of life of all residents of the region, was signed in May 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Triangle Covenant was developed by the Reverend Corwin Hammond, pastor of Chickahominy Baptist Church in Toano, with input from Brad Rinehimer, chief of the James City County Police Department; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 people, including representatives from the James City County Police Department, the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, the Williamsburg Police Department, The College of William and Mary, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the York-James City County-Williamsburg NAACP, Real People Educating Others, Black Lives Matter, and the Village Initiative, Inc., gathered at the Williamsburg Regional Library to sign the Historic Triangle Covenant; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Triangle Covenant provides a framework for a multi-phase endeavor to develop open, honest lines of communication between the police, community groups, and local residents and to promote peace, understanding, and dignity; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Historic Triangle Covenant, area law-enforcement departments have pledged to recognize and address implicit biases as part of a holistic approach to community policing and have prioritized new training programs to ensure that officers have the verbal and emotional skills to defuse tense situations in a nonviolent manner; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the Historic Triangle Covenant, community groups plan to organize additional local meetings, work together to build a support network for families, and educate young people on how to make better life decisions and interact with the police; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Historic Triangle Covenant, a unique agreement between law enforcement and community members; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Corwin Hammond as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the importance of communication and trust between law-enforcement officers and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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