

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 749

Offered February 2, 2021

Commending Newport News Public Library.

Patrons—Mullin and Price

WHEREAS, Newport News Public Library received an Innovations Initiative Honorable Mention from the Urban Libraries Council in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) annually recognizes member library systems across the United States and Canada for implementing cutting-edge programs, strategies, tools, techniques, and ideas; and

WHEREAS, the ULC honored Newport News Public Library in the category of digital citizenship for establishing a mobile Wi-Fi program that brought connectivity to areas of Newport News with limited Internet access; and

WHEREAS, with its library branches closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Newport News Public Library's mobile Wi-Fi program provided a vital resource to the community at a time when the need for Internet access is greater than ever; and

WHEREAS, after identifying areas in the city with little to no access to the Internet, staff with the Newport News Public Library drove Wi-Fi hotspots to designated, preannounced locations, enabling up to 30 simultaneous users to use the Internet for hours at a time; and

WHEREAS, with improved access to the Internet, many residents of Newport News were better able to fulfill essential life tasks, like finishing school assignments, checking email, and applying for jobs or benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Newport News Public Library for its Innovations Initiative Honorable Mention from the Urban Libraries Council; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Newport News Public Library as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the library's contributions to Newport News and the Commonwealth.

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