

24109024D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 420

Offered March 7, 2024

*Commending the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail.*

Patrons—Cole, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Carr, Clark, Cohen, Convirs-Fowler, Cousins, Delaney, Feggans, Gardner, Glass, Hayes, Helmer, Henson, Hernandez, Herring, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, McQuinn, Mundon King, Price, Rasoul, Reid, Scott, D., Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Simon, Simonds, Srinivasan, Sullivan, Thomas, Torian, Tran, Ward, Watts and Willett

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail, named "Freedom: a Work in Progress," was accepted as part of the United States Civil Rights Trail in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail became the fourth such site in the Commonwealth to be added to the United States Civil Rights Trail, which features a number of landmarks and sites across 15 states that figure prominently in the history of the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail was developed in partnership between the City of Fredericksburg and the University of Mary Washington, with particularly strong support from Victoria Matthews, Fredericksburg's tourism sales manager, and Chris Williams, assistant director at the University of Mary Washington's James Farmer Multicultural Center, and the project benefitted greatly from the Fredericksburg community's input throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, the 21 sites on the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail range chronologically from the Civil War to the present and include places noted in history that created educational, housing, and business opportunities during the Jim Crow era, buildings that provided the setting for protests against racial segregation in the 1950s and 1960s, and locations that illuminate the accomplishments of civil rights leaders; and

WHEREAS, by shedding light onto significant aspects of the history of Fredericksburg, the Commonwealth, and the nation, and by fostering a deeper understanding of the hardships Black Americans faced in their pursuit of freedom, justice, and equality, the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail promises to enrich and preserve this history and to educate and inspire Virginians for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by House of Delegates, That the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail hereby be commended for its inclusion in the United States Civil Rights Trail; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the representatives of the Fredericksburg Civil Rights Trail as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the endeavor's mission and accomplishments.