

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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JOHN ROBINSON, JR. TOWN SQUARE

WHEREAS, the town square surrounded by South Shirlington Road, South Kenmore and South 24th Streets in the heart of the Green Valley community in Arlington, Virginia, will soon become a revitalized town square; and

WHEREAS, John Robinson, Jr., was a community activist who fought to break down segregationist barriers in housing, food counters and movie theaters in northern Virginia, and he coordinated with local authorities to take drugs off the streets and organized food, clothing, and furniture drives for local families, and over the years he opened his doors to hundreds of people who were homeless; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson was on-call seven days a week, 24 hours a day to assist Green Valley children, families, and senior citizens. Mr. Robinson headquartered his activities at the town square and at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center which he founded and led for almost 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson published the *Green Valley News*, a free, African American neighborhood publication that was in circulation for more than 45 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson has been recognized widely for his community achievements from organizations including the Arlington Chapter of the Links, Northern Virginia Branch of the Washington Urban League, Arlington Branch of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Drew Community Center, and the William L. Winston award; and

WHEREAS, John Robinson, Jr., born in Arlington, Virginia in 1934, never professed to be a perfect person, but was perfect for the Green Valley community and was often referred to as the “Mayor of Green Valley” until his passing in 2012; and

WHEREAS, John Robinson, Jr. personified what it meant to be a leader in the community as he lived by the tenets of community and freedom, to which the newly commissioned public art in the town square will attest; and

WHEREAS, a survey commissioned by the Green Valley Civic Association showed majority support for the naming of the town square after Mr. Robinson, in addition to the unanimous support of the Green Valley Civic Association and its Executive Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Cristol, Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, proclaim on this day, Saturday, May 7, 2022 that the town square in Green Valley be officially named the

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and may residents today and for generations to come feel the peace and inspiration that Mr. Robinson brought to this community.



Katie Cristol
Chair