

# RESOLUTION

John Robinson, Jr. Town Square

**WHEREAS**, the Town Square, surrounded by South Shirlington Road, South Kenmore Street, and South 24th Street in the heart of the Green Valley community in Arlington, Virginia, will shortly begin construction for 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. Mr. Robinson coordinated with local authorities to take drugs off the streets and organized food, clothing and furniture drives for local families. Over the years, he opened his doors to hundreds of people who were homeless; and

**WHEREAS**, John Robinson, Jr., published the Green Valley News, a free, African-American neighborhood publication that was in circulation for more than 45 years; 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 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., never professed to be a perfect person, but was perfect for the Green Valley community. He was often referred to as the “Mayor of Green Valley.” Born in Arlington, Virginia in 1934, Mr. Robinson passed on in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, John Robinson, Jr. personified what it meant to be a leader in the community. He lived under the mantra of community and freedom, as the newly commissioned public art in the town square will attest; and

**WHEREAS**, a survey commissioned by the Green Valley Civic Association shows majority support for the naming of the town square after Mr. Robinson, and the Green Valley Civic Association and its Executive Committee unanimously support this honor for him too;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Arlington County Board officially name the town square in Green Valley as John Robinson, Jr. Town Square.