

City of College Park Proclamation in Recognition of Valerie Woodall

WHEREAS, Valerie Woodall's commitment to fostering a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive community has left an indelible mark on College Park. As we bid farewell to an exceptional colleague, we would like to reflect on her achievements and unwavering dedication to College Park during her 10-year tenure with the College Park City-University Partnership; and

WHEREAS, leadership and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between the Partnership, the City and the University of Maryland. Valerie played a pivotal role in the development of the University Community Vision 2030, and has worked to support our shared vision for growth and progress; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure, Valerie actively engaged with various city and university committees, addressing critical issues that impact our community. Her efforts encompassed housing and development, transportation and mobility, public health and safety, and education. Valerie's contributions have been multifaceted, and her impact resonated across many segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, Valerie spearheaded and managed the Partnership's Homeownership Program for eight years, resulting in the purchase of 82 homes within the city, fostering a sense of community and stability; and

WHEREAS, Valerie worked diligently to raise funds for the establishment of the Community Preservation Trust, lay the groundwork for its success, and to support its launch; and

WHEREAS, under Valerie's guidance, new murals and public artworks, such as "A Path Forward" and "Psychophily – Pollination by Butterfly," have graced the city, thus enriching our cultural landscape and honoring our history; and

WHEREAS, Valerie championed advocacy, planning and safety enhancements along the Trolley Trail and throughout the city, including lighting improvements and installation of safety cameras, ensuring the well-being of our residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, her tireless efforts in convening property owners and institutional partners, and securing partnership, resulted in successful projects like the Riverwalk and Campus Drive Bike path, raising over \$3 million for their design and construction; and

WHEREAS, during the challenging times of the COVID crisis, Valerie demonstrated remarkable leadership by supporting local businesses, contributing to the resilience and vibrancy of our community; and

WHEREAS, Valerie's vision and management of Trolley Trail Day transformed it into a regional destination event, celebrating the Trolley Trail and the diverse communities along its path; and

WHEREAS, Valerie played a crucial role in the launch and opening of College Park Academy, supported the establishment of the University of Maryland Childhood Development Center, and contributed to the founding of the Monarch Preschool; and

WHEREAS, Valerie's dedication to education extended to the environment, as she supported and assisted all schools in College Park in becoming Certified Green Schools, fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental awareness; and

WHEREAS, Valerie's legacy is not only marked by professional achievements, but also by the positive impact she has had on the lives of people in College Park. Her passion, dedication and collaborative spirit have been hallmarks of her work. We extend our gratitude to Valerie for her outstanding service. College Park is undoubtedly a better place because of her contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Fazlul Kabir, Mayor of the City of College Park, join the City Council, residents, staff, colleagues and friends in expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to Valerie Woodall for her service and dedication to the City of College Park. We wish you well in all future endeavors and congratulate you on a job well done.

Proclaimed this 13th day of February, 2024.

Fazlul Kabir, Mayor
City of College Park, MD