



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Mayor

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801
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Deanna R. Reed
Mayor

Proclamation Recognizing the Northeast Neighborhood Association of Harrisonburg, VA

WHEREAS, In October 2006 during a heightened period of crime in the northeastern part of the city, it was the desire of resident Karen Thomas to not only have a neighborhood watch group when problems arose but to have a core group of residents to meet continuously to help prevent crime in the community and to beautify the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, After reaching out to concerned residents, collaborating with city government and non-government agencies, Harrisonburg Police Dept, Commonwealth Attorney's Office and other community leaders the Northeast Neighborhood Association, also known as NENA was created; and

WHEREAS, NENA has a nonpartisan approach to neighborhood organizing that has led to community relationship building and information sharing efforts. NENA has encouraged and supported its residents to step up and revive other community programs.; and

WHEREAS, NENA was successful in getting three properties in the city on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places: Newtown Cemetery, the only African American Cemetery in the city; the Bethel AME Church; and the Dallard Newman House Historic District, which was built by formerly enslaved brothers; and

WHEREAS, The Northeast Neighborhood is the most diverse community in the city, NENA serves as a model for community building throughout the city and has created a sense of place for all residents to come and voice their concerns and good news with the Harrisonburg Chapter of Coming to the Table, whose mission is to provide leadership, resources, and a supportive environment for all who wish to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism that is rooted in the United States' history of slavery; and

WHEREAS, The Association engages in partnerships with community residents and families, city government officials and departments, and non-governmental agencies and institutions to revitalize the neighborhood and to address the needs of the residents in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Northeast Neighborhood Association leads African American historical preservation and cultural heritage projects in Harrisonburg; and

WHEREAS, NENA are proud partners of the Harrisonburg Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Advisory Committee that will lead a project in the city to promote equity, encourage empathy and to empower outreach and action

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that I, Deanna R. Reed, Mayor of the city of Harrisonburg, do hereby recognize the accomplishments of the Northeast Neighborhood Association.

GIVEN under my hand this 14th day of May, 2019.

BY: _____
Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk