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May 09, 2022

Mayor Levar Stoney and City Council Members
City of Richmond
Commonwealth of Virginia

RE: Proclamation Request for **"Celebrating 30 Years Falun Dafa in the World"**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

My name is Tong Wang. I am a Henrico County resident and Falun Dafa Practitioner.

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of Falun Dafa's introduction to the public, practitioners in the City of Richmond and the Greater Richmond area respectfully request that the City of Richmond issue a proclamation commending the efforts of this peaceful practice in promoting the betterment of humanity and society.

Falun Dafa, also called Falun Gong, is an ancient Chinese practice encompassing the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance. It also includes five gentle exercises, which, combined with the teachings, help improve health, purify the mind, and uplift the spirit. It emphasizes elevating one's moral character, thereby benefiting not just the individual, but the environment around them, as they strive to become a better person in their daily life.

Falun Dafa was first introduced to the public in China by Mr. Li Hongzhi on May 13, 1992, and has remained free of charge and open to all. After its introduction, the practice grew rapidly, with an estimated 70-100 million people practicing within just a few years. Sadly, in July of 1999, the Chinese communist party launched a brutal crackdown, putting practitioners in prison, forced labor camps, and even killing them on demand to harvest and sell their organs. This brutal persecution continues to this day.

Despite the persecution, today, Falun Dafa is practiced in more than 100 countries around the world. Its teachings have been translated into more than 40 languages, allowing even more people to experience an improvement in their physical and mental well-being.

Since first coming to the Richmond area in 1996, Falun Dafa practitioners have shared this wonderful practice with the local community by holding free workshops, establishing practice sites, participating in local community events such as the annual Christmas parade and the Monument Avenue 10K, and contributing to the area's rich cultural diversity.

May 13th commemorates Falun Dafa's annual celebration of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, and the contributions made to communities around the world. It is also an observance of the peaceful and courageous journey that Falun Dafa practitioners in China have traveled, despite two decades of persecution.

We are grateful to be able to practice Falun Dafa freely in Richmond, and we hope that our elected officials will honor this freedom, and the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance with a formal recognition.

Thank you for your support.

Tong Wang
11940 Westcott Landing Court, Glan Allen, VA 23059
&
Falun Dafa practitioners in Greater Richmond area



- At Richmond Christmas Parade



- At Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K and Marathon



- At Richmond Asian American Celebration and Community Center (Free of charge)



- **Sharing Falun Gong exercise at Ginter Park Earth Day Celebration**



- **Panel discussion and film screening of "Human Harvest" at VUA Law School and UVA Medical School**
- **Collecting signatures to raise awareness and help end Force Organ Harvesting in China**



- **At Richmond Festival of the Arts**

