

Awards/Recognitions Ceremony Docket

For Official Presentation: Monday, 12 September 2022 Draft Updated 9.9.2022/1220hrssrs

Awards & Proclamations on behalf of the institution of Richmond City Council

Richmond City Council Officially Awards/Proclaims the following:

#	TITLE/SPEAKER	TYPE	SUMMARY/NARRATIVE	MAIN PRESENTER
1	Facts and Faith Fridays To be received by: Facts and Faith Fridays Program	Richmond City Council Community Service Award	To bestow the Richmond City Council Community Service Award upon the Facts and Faith Fridays program and thank its organizers, participants, and supporters for their leadership roles in helping make Richmond and Virginia an even better and healthier place to live, love, work, learn, play, visit, and enjoy family.	Cm. Jones



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

By virtue of the authority vested in the United States of America, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Code of Laws, and the Richmond City Charter, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby and officially exalt:

Facts and Faith Fridays

Whereas, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby declare the health and wellness of Richmond residents and visitors as vital to the ongoing happiness and success of our thriving community; and

Whereas, Critical to the wellbeing of Richmond residents and visitors is the prevention of and protection from life-threatening injury, illness, and disease, which directly impact our individual and collective health, safety, livelihood, and prosperity; and

Whereas, Beginning in early 2020, Richmond became confronted with the enveloping shadow of a new threat to the health of its residents in the form of an unfamiliar, highly infectious, and often deadly viral disease, Covid-19; and

Whereas, During the onset of this rapidly spreading disease, many people worked diligently on the front lines and behind the scenes, putting their health and that of their families in harms way in responding to the crisis as thousands were becoming infected and many lives were being lost; and

Whereas, As we navigated these uncertain times together in Richmond and across the nation, a valid, reasonable, and persisting sense of fear, distress, grief, loss, and anxiety permeated our consciousness and constrained our lives; and

Whereas, With these outlooks at hand came fundamental questions and concerns regarding how to properly protect ourselves, our families, and those we care about against the disease; and

Whereas, During that time a growing alarm also began to sound regarding racial and ethnic disparities in Covid-19 outcomes, particularly of people of African American, Latino, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and Native American descent, which were experiencing much higher rates of Covid-19 infection, hospitalization, and death, as percentages of Americans; and

Whereas, In direct response to such disparities, questions, and concerns, in March 2020 the Virginia Commonwealth University - Massey Cancer Center established a collaborative program with African American Clergy in Richmond and across Virginia, entitled *Facts and Faith Fridays*, to help convey and exchange Covid-19 information between medical personnel and ministers on behalf of their congregations; and

Whereas, Established the same month the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a pandemic, Facts and Faith Fridays, which began as a weekly call and evolved into virtual meetings, has been a tremendously successful forum for sharing important healthcare information, dispelling falsehoods, and strengthening the resolve and outcomes of people of African American descent, as it has reached many thousands of people;

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council does hereby recognize, honor, celebrate, and bestow the Richmond City Council Community Service Award upon the Facts and Faith Fridays program and thanks its organizers, participants, and supporters for their leadership roles in helping make Richmond and Virginia an even better and healthier place to live, love, work, learn, play, visit, and enjoy family.

In witness whereof, this pronouncement was respectfully prepared and hereunto established for official Richmond City Council effectuation on behalf of the residents of Richmond on the twelfth day of September, two thousand twenty-two, in the two hundred eighty-sixth year of the City of Richmond, founded in 1737, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Commonwealth of Virginia, established in 1776, and the United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

The Honorable Michael J. Jones
Councilmember, Richmond City Council
Richmond South Central 9th Voter District

Richmond City Council - Richmond City Hall - 900 East Broad Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219 - U.S.A.