

## RESOLUTION OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

**WHEREAS**, the Albemarle County School Board (“School Board”) serves as the governing body for the School Division and has responsibility for ensuring that it is an effective school system dedicated to establishing a community of learners and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Register of Historic Places as administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in partnership with the National Park Service, a part of the United States Department of the Interior, is the official list of this nation’s historic places worthy of preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Landmarks Register, managed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, is designed to educate the public educate about the significance of listed places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Burley Varsity Club has led a community campaign to commemorate Jackson P. Burley High School’s historic significance in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1949, the Charlottesville School Board combined Jefferson High School, Esmont High School, and Albemarle County Training School, into a single high school for all the black students in this area. The city purchased land from Jackson P. Burley, a teacher, church worker, and leader within the Charlottesville community, and constructed the new school on a seventeen-acre tract of land located on Rose Hill Drive. Construction began on the site in 1950; and

**WHEREAS**, the school was opened for classes in September, 1951, and operated through 1967. During the first year of occupancy, a total of 542 students were enrolled to constitute the first Jackson P. Burley High School student body. The students were served by 26 teachers, a principal, secretary, two cafeteria workers, four maintenance workers, and six bus operators; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1951 to 1967, Jackson P. Burley High School was the only black high school in the area that attracted students from the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and parts of Green and Nelson Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson P. Burley High School students were important actors in the fight over school integration in Charlottesville following the 1954 decision of Brown v. Board of Education. In 1958, the NAACP filed a lawsuit on behalf of students of Jackson P. Burley High School who sought the opportunity to transfer to all-white Lane High school. This resulted in Charlottesville joining the massive resistance strategy that was being used throughout the Commonwealth. Despite students having been admitted to attend Lane High School as early as 1960, one student chose to transfer from Lane High School to Jackson P. Burley High School instead,

football player Garwin DeBerry, who would not have been allowed to play the sport at Lane High School due to his race; and

**WHEREAS**, students of Jackson P. Burley High School have, through devotion and perseverance in the face of racism and injustice, inculcated a culture and record of achievement, such as establishing a partnership with the Department of Nursing at the University of Virginia that provided a pathway for black students in Albemarle County and Charlottesville to become nurses and help desegregate the University of Virginia Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register is widely regarded as an honor that contributes to civic pride; establishes a sense of place among residents and visitors; celebrates the unique and rich history of Jackson P. Burley High School; and assists the School Board in sharing the legacy of its schools and students with the broader community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Albemarle County Public School Board recognizes and desires to honor the historic significance of Jackson P. Burley High School and its notable place in the educational fabric and civil rights movement in Albemarle County and Charlottesville communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albemarle County Public School Board approves listing Jackson P. Burley High School on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register.