



**PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION
IN THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, sixty-five years ago on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled against segregated schools in the United States with the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia implemented a strategy of “Massive Resistance” to public school integration between 1954 and 1959; and

WHEREAS, in 1955 the parents of African-American students in Charlottesville petitioned the school system to allow their children to attend their neighborhood schools, and were denied, and;

WHEREAS, on August 6, 1956, U.S. District Court Judge John Paul ruled in *Allen v. School Board of the City of Charlottesville* that the school system must integrate Lane High School and Venable Elementary School, and;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 1958 in an effort to prevent the desegregation of the Charlottesville School System, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia ordered the closing of Lane and Venable, and;

WHEREAS, Lane and Venable were shut down for the period of five months and the Charlottesville School System remained segregated for the remainder of that year, and;

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1959 Judge Paul ordered the immediate transfer of twelve African-American students, three to Lane High School and nine to Venable Elementary, and;

WHEREAS, sixty years ago on September 8, 1959 twelve African American students bravely integrated the Charlottesville City School System and;

WHEREAS, the struggle for equality in the Charlottesville Public School System and our City forever affected those involved;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Charlottesville City School Board, praise the fearlessness displayed by the families of the twelve students and those in our community who supported the desegregation of our school system and believe that as we continue to address equity for ALL students, we remember this story, on this day, and hereby proclaim, September 8, 2019 as, Charlottesville Twelve Day.

Jennifer McKeever, School Board Chair