



PROCLAMATION

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FIRST PAID “NEGRO” FIREFIGHTERS IN ARLINGTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, the community known as Hall’s Hill / High View Park was originally part of the estate of Bazil Hall. Newly-freed slaves, shortly after the Civil War, purchased plots of land from the Hall estate, as Bazil Hall had abandoned the area during the war. Additionally, other African Americans migrated to Hall’s Hill / High View Park from nearby Freedman’s Village. Hall’s Hill / High View Park residents established their own stores, churches and schools; and

WHEREAS, In 1918, Hall’s Hill / High View Park residents organized the Volunteer Fire Department, known as “Arlington County Fire Department Engine #8” because each community protected their neighbors in that manner and was one of the early volunteer fire departments in Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, Fire Station #8 was one of two “Negro” Volunteer Fire Departments, and was maintained after the County Board ordered closure of the East Arlington “Negro” Volunteer Fire Department in 1941; and

WHEREAS, the first 14 paid “Negro” firefighters were segregated and only served in Fire Station #8 until the County workforce was integrated; and

WHEREAS, these firefighters endured incredible odds, used inferior equipment, slept in inadequate quarters, while being subjected to racial slurs; and

WHEREAS, these men met these challenges by becoming very successful firemen and marking their place in history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia proclaim that Arlington County recognizes the

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by remembering, celebrating and honoring their heroism, and call on the citizens of Arlington County to recognize their contribution.

Libby Garvey
Chair