

**A Resolution Authorizing a City-Sponsored Commemorative Display Recognizing the  
100th Anniversary of Jefferson High School**

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville recognizes the historic significance of Jefferson High School and its lasting contributions to the African American community and to the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Jefferson High School through a temporary, City-authorized commemorative display reflecting the City's history, values, and commitment to racial equity and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that City-owned streetlight poles are not generally available for the posting of private signage, banners, or displays, and that their use does not constitute a public forum; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may, on a limited and case-by-case basis, authorize the use of City property for artwork or commemorative displays selected by the City Council to express the City's own message; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center has proposed a series of banners featuring historic photographs of former students of Jefferson High School to commemorate the school's centennial anniversary; and

WHEREAS, City Council has reviewed representative images proposed for the commemorative display and finds that the images portray individuals and events directly related to the City's history, are consistent with the aesthetics and character of Main Street, and effectively communicate the City Council's Vision of a community committed to mutual respect, racial and cultural diversity, inclusion, racial reconciliation, economic justice, and equity; and

WHEREAS, City Council intends that the authorized banners constitute a City-sponsored commemorative display expressing the City's viewpoint, and not the creation of a public forum for private expression;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia,** that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center to install and display a temporary series of commemorative banners on designated City-owned streetlight poles along Main Street for the period from February 20, 2026, through February 20, 2027, with installation commencing on or after February 1, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the content, design, placement, duration, and maintenance of the commemorative display shall be subject to City approval and oversight, and that the City retains the right to remove or modify the display if it no longer satisfies the purposes and criteria set forth in this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization is limited to the commemorative display described herein and shall not be construed to create a policy, precedent, or public forum requiring the City to permit other private signs, banners, or displays on City-owned streetlight poles or other City property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council may, by future resolution, authorize other City-sponsored artwork or commemorative displays on City property when such displays are selected by the City Council and are intended to communicate the City's own message consistent with the City Council's Vision and the City's historical and cultural values.