

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

# Resolution

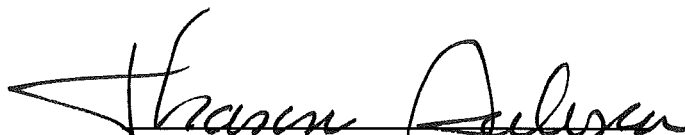
**WHEREAS**, historic African-American communities are a monument to the perseverance and enduring spirit of the African-American people; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia — often called the “gateway to history” — has one such community in Gum Springs, which was founded 180 years ago by patriarchal freeman West Ford who permitted land he inherited from the family of George Washington to become a refuge during the Civil War for freed and runaway slaves; and

**WHEREAS**, with the help of the Freedmen’s Bureau and the Quaker community, Gum Springs residents established economic survival through farming, the lumber industry and trades; and

**WHEREAS**, today Gum Springs has more than 2,500 residents, many of whom are descendants of those who lived there; **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby congratulate the Gum Springs community — the oldest African-American community in Fairfax County, — for its 180th anniversary.



Sharon Bulova, Chairman  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

*June 15, 2013*

Date

