

WHEREAS on October 5, 2015, Charlottesville’s City Council unanimously declared Charlottesville to be a “Welcoming City,” stating that “all people, including recent immigrants, are welcome, accepted, and integrated,” and “policies that negate opportunities for contributions to our community in the fullest capacity hinder Charlottesville’s prosperity and compromises our commitment to the American values here stated;” and

WHEREAS on June 8, 2004, Captain Humayun Khan of the U.S. Army, a graduate of the University of Virginia, perished during Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq when approaching a suicide car bomb after ordering his subordinates to move away from the vehicle, an act of bravery for which he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS Captain Khan’s parents, Khizr and Ghazala Khan, were born in Pakistan and ultimately emigrated to the United States, whereupon they became American citizens and currently reside in the Charlottesville area; and

WHEREAS Charlottesville proudly describes itself as a “World-Class City” and strives to foster a community-building environment that embraces opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS the Charlottesville area is the historical home of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and James Madison, the architect of the U.S. Constitution, and proudly upholds Constitutional values today, including the freedom of speech and religion, separation of powers, equal protection of the laws, and the separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS Khizr and Ghazala Khan have recently highlighted their commitment to the U.S. Constitution and have honored their son’s memory by bravely countering anti-Muslim rhetoric through

a patriotic and profound dedication to the United States of America and to the Constitution that guides our traditions of pluralism and tolerance; and

WHEREAS the Khans are a Gold Star family, which entitles them, like all Gold Star families, in the words of the U.S. Army, to “our respect, gratitude and the very best support we can provide”;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Charlottesville City Council hereby declares our appreciation and support for Charlottesville area residents Khizr and Ghazala Khan, in recognition of their sacrifice, patriotism, and commitment to our Constitutional values and traditions.