



## Proclamation Celebrating Independence Day – “The Fourth of July”

**WHEREAS,** June 2023 marks the 247<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the motion to declare independence for 13 American colonies from the British Empire, proposed by Virginia Statesman, Richard Henry Lee; and

**WHEREAS,** July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 marks the 247<sup>th</sup> anniversary by which the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted, making America a free nation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Declaration of Independence, notably authored by Thomas Jefferson, professes core values that our Nation and its citizens are created equal and possess unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

**WHEREAS,** July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 marks the 171<sup>st</sup> anniversary of American Abolitionist, Frederick Douglass’ speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July,” a call to action for total inclusion in the values of freedom and Independence for all law-abiding citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** through naturalization, new citizens are afforded the opportunity to embark upon the freedom and independence that our Nation advocates and preserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors do hereby recognize and celebrate the Fourth of July as Independence Day and reaffirm our commitment to create a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2023

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Donna Price, Chair  
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors