



**Proclamation
Virginia Wine Month**

WHEREAS, *from modest beginnings in colonial times, Virginia has become a nationwide leader in the wine industry, now fifth in the nation both in wine production and in number of wineries and with wine sales growing 34 percent since 2010, to 6.6 million bottles of Virginia wine sold worldwide in fiscal year 2016; and*

WHEREAS, *wines from the Commonwealth, including those from Albemarle County, are winning national and international awards and recognition for their elegant qualities, imparted by skilled vintners and Virginia's terroir; and*

WHEREAS, *many of Albemarle's more than 30 vineyards, most with wineries on site, are run by families as strong agricultural enterprises that can be passed on to future generations, providing economic benefit for winery owners and employees and for other Albemarle ventures supported by the patronage and purchasing power of winery visitors, including farming of heritage and heirloom crops, restaurant cuisine committed to selling local where possible, and tourism focused on sustaining the land and the local culture; and*

WHEREAS, *in 2015 Albemarle County had the most bearing acres of grapes of any area in the state--570 acres, or 18% of the state's total bearing acres -- and is part of the central region of Virginia which produced the most tons of grapes -- 3,691 tons, or 42.5% of the total in the state in 2015; and*

WHEREAS, *Albemarle County values our wineries' stewardship, keeping their land producing and protected in agricultural uses, preserving scenic vistas, historic sites and other amenities which make Albemarle wineries ideal places of entertainment, culture, enjoyment and social engagement that enrich Albemarle County's quality of life and culture of hospitality.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, does hereby recognize Albemarle County wineries and their contribution to the Virginia wine industry's success and encourage County residents and visitors to visit a winery or purchase local wines through local restaurants and shops during October 2016, Virginia Wine Month.*

Signed and sealed this 12th day of October, 2016.

Norman G. Dill

Liz Palmer, Chair

Ann H. Mallek

Rick Randolph

Diantha H. McKeel

Brad L. Sheffield