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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 821

Offered July 18, 2024

*Commending William H. Ashton II.*

Patron—

WHEREAS, William H. Ashton II, a distinguished civil servant and community leader, will conclude his tenure as town manager of the Town of Herndon on September 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Ashton holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from James Madison University and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University and has completed the Leading, Educating, and Developing leadership program at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service; and

WHEREAS, prior to working for the Town of Herndon, Bill Ashton served in various technology positions for the Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate from 1986 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ashton joined the Town of Herndon staff in April 1997 as the locality's first-ever director of information technology and served as acting town manager briefly in early 2017 before being formally appointed town manager by the Herndon Town Council later that year; and

WHEREAS, during Bill Ashton's tenure as director of information technology, the Town of Herndon received national recognition as a leader in technology in the public sector; and

WHEREAS, as town manager, Bill Ashton served as Herndon's chief administrative officer, overseeing each of the locality's departments while reporting directly to the Herndon Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ashton's legacy as town manager includes several key initiatives to bolster the responsible growth and development of Herndon, including the opening of the Metrorail Silver Line station in Herndon, efforts to revitalize the downtown, and the obtainment of AAA bond ratings with all three credit rating agencies; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ashton's leadership, management experience, operations expertise, and thorough knowledge of town policies proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic, as he led Herndon through the historic public health crisis with minimal disruptions to town services; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ashton has maintained several organizational affiliations to inform his work and support other localities beyond Herndon, including the International City/County Management Association, the Virginia Local Government Management Association, and the Virginia Risk Sharing Association, for which he served as vice chair of the Members' Supervisory Board; and

WHEREAS, beyond his work with the Town of Herndon, Bill Ashton has served his country with honor and distinction as an infantry officer in the United States Army Reserve and the Maryland Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ashton will soon be assuming the role of county administrator for the County of Stafford, where his leadership will undoubtedly make a profound and lasting impact; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That William H. Ashton II hereby be commended for his service with the Town of Herndon as he concludes his tenure as its town manager; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to William H. Ashton II as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to the Town of Herndon and best wishes in his future post.