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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 581

Offered February 4, 2025

Commending the Stafford County African American History driving tour.

Patrons—Cole and Mundon King

WHEREAS, the Stafford County African American History driving tour, an initiative of the Stafford County Historical Society's Discover Stafford museum, will be officially launched in February 2025; and

WHEREAS, Discover Stafford set out to create the Stafford County African American History driving tour in 2023 after recognizing that many stories highlighting the strength and resilience of Black people living in Stafford County remained untold; and

WHEREAS, Discover Stafford developed the Stafford County African American History driving tour in collaboration with the University of Mary Washington's Department of Geography, including professor Steven Hanna and interns Ethan Sweeney, Noah Brushwood, Brooke Prevedal, and Eliza Vegas, who developed digital and print maps detailing the route and the locations and stories it features; and

WHEREAS, Discover Stafford organized the African American Heritage Advisory Committee to guide its efforts, receiving valuable input from many esteemed community leaders, historians, and museum professionals in the identification and selection of sites for the Stafford County African American History driving tour; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford County African American History driving tour includes more than 20 locations and stories that are grouped by the themes, "Faith and Education," "Entrepreneurship and Work," and "Journey to Freedom"; and

WHEREAS, Discover Stafford has coordinated with county officials overseeing historic preservation, Geographic Information System mapping, and tourism to assist with the Stafford County African American History driving tour; and

WHEREAS, Discover Stafford has provided a great and meaningful service to all Virginians by creating the Stafford County African American History driving tour and by promoting greater understanding and awareness of the history of the Black community in Stafford County over the past three centuries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Stafford County African American History driving tour hereby be commended on the occasion of its official launch in 2025; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the members of Discover Stafford involved with the Stafford County African American History driving tour as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for this endeavor and best wishes for its success.