

2026 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

26200125D

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2033

Offered June 15, 2026

Commending the Charlottesville Downtown Mall.

Patron—Deeds

WHEREAS, in 1976, the City of Charlottesville boldly reimagined its historic Main Street into what would become the Charlottesville Downtown Mall, one of the longest pedestrian malls in the United States, reflecting a visionary commitment to community, commerce, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mall was designed by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, whose innovative vision emphasized human-centered urban spaces, incorporating flowing brickwork, inviting public gathering areas, and a seamless blend of natural and built environments that continues to define the Downtown Mall's unique character; and

WHEREAS, over the past five decades, the Downtown Mall has flourished as the vibrant heart of Charlottesville, serving as a gathering place for residents and visitors alike and as a hub for local businesses, restaurants, artists, performers, and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mall has played a vital role in the economic vitality of Charlottesville, supporting small businesses, fostering innovation, and contributing to the city's reputation as a dynamic and welcoming destination; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mall has also served as a cultural cornerstone, hosting festivals, concerts, markets, and public events that celebrate the diversity, creativity, and spirit of the Charlottesville community; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of historic architecture alongside thoughtful development has ensured that the Downtown Mall remains both a reflection of Charlottesville's rich history and a symbol of its forward-looking vision; and

WHEREAS, generations of Charlottesville residents, business owners, civic leaders, and community partners have contributed to the success and continued evolution of the Downtown Mall, ensuring its place as a cherished public space for connection and shared experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Charlottesville Downtown Mall hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the mayor of Charlottesville and the executive director of the Downtown Business Association as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for the Charlottesville Downtown Mall's legacy of contributions to local life and best wishes for its continued vibrancy and growth.

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