

Resolution Commending Loudoun County Public School Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams for Protecting the Religious Freedom of all Loudoun Citizens

Adopted February 5, 2015

WHEREAS, the right of citizens of all faiths, religions, moral codes, creeds, or none have the sacred right to freely practice their faith according to the dictates of their conscience, and that this right is protected in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment and in the Virginia Constitution's Article I, Section 16; and

WHEREAS, the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) has a long history of affording all citizens and groups, whether or not they are religious by nature or purpose, equal access into public school facilities; and

WHEREAS, these LCPS facilities are built and funded by the taxpayers of Loudoun County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Loudoun County benefit from the equal access policy of using LCPS facilities; and

WHEREAS, all citizens and groups who rent space from LCPS pay the same rate, including all religious groups and houses of worship; and

WHEREAS any denial of the use of LCPS facilities for religious groups would be discrimination against a segment of Loudoun County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in numerous cases including *Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District*, 508 U.S. 384 (1993) and *Good News Club v. Milford Central School*, 533 U.S. 98 (2001) that school districts are allowed by the U.S. Constitution to establish policies allowing all citizens and groups – including religious groups and houses of worship – to use public school facilities, as the LCPS has done;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County Republican Committee commends the LCPS for its longstanding policy of allowing all Loudoun citizens and groups including our religious neighbors to use public school facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County Republican Committee commends LCPS Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams for continuing to uphold the LCPS policy of allowing equal access to all citizens and groups regardless of religious or civic affiliation to use public school facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County Republican Committee stands with the LCPS, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, and all of our elected officials who defend the freedom of all citizens and groups to have equal access to school facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County Republican Committee stands with our fellow Loudoun citizens from all faith and civic backgrounds who benefit from the LCPS equal access policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the chairman of the Loudoun County Republican Committee shall cause copies of this resolution to be disseminated to all of Loudoun County's Constitutional officers, LCPS Superintendent Dr. Eric Williams, all other GOP County units in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the media.

Signed,

Michael Haynes  
Chairman, Loudoun County Republican Committee