

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Expressing Support for a Capital Project to Establish Handicapped Access to the Charlottesville Dogwood Vietnam Memorial**

WHEREAS the Charlottesville City Council recognizes the historic significance of the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial as the first Vietnam War Memorial constructed on public property within our country, and Council also wishes to acknowledge the continuing importance of this memorial as a poignant lesson of the sacrifices of many of our local residents during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial was originally constructed in the mid-1960s within McIntire Park, a public park owned by the City of Charlottesville, funded entirely by private donations, and City Council desires to take steps to ensure that the Memorial will remain an important, integral component of the City's public park system, for generations to come; and

WHEREAS the Charlottesville City Council respects the unflagging commitment of the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Foundation, whose members have generously contributed funding and supplies over the course of many years for the care, maintenance, and enhancement of the memorial and surrounding plaza; and

WHEREAS in response to concerns that the Memorial is not easy for handicapped persons to access, City Council appointed a working group in 2019, to discuss pedestrian access to the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Plaza and identify obstacles to pedestrian accessibility; this working group recommended to City Council the creation of a vehicle parking area with a pedestrian bridge crossing over the John Warner Parkway that would not only improve pedestrian access to the memorial but would also enhance access to the citywide trail system and the eastern portion of McIntire Park; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville THAT the City Council desires to identify a path forward for making a parking lot and handicapped accessible access from the parking lot to the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Plaza a viable capital construction project, to be undertaken either by the City government, or by the City in conjunction with a third party, following review of options available under applicable procurement or other legal procedures, with the intention that the project will be funded by private donations as well as state or local public funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council hereby requests Senator Creigh Deeds to sponsor a request for state funding to be awarded to the Charlottesville Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Foundation, or to the City of Charlottesville as fiscal agent for the Foundation, such funding to be used solely for construction of a parking lot adjacent to the John Warner Parkway and construction of a handicapped-accessible pedestrian walkway from the parking lot to the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Plaza.