

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**Acknowledgement of Intent to Commemorate by Department of African American Studies**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Commonwealth University (the "University") is the premier urban, public research university distinguished by its commitment to the intellectual and academic success of a diverse student body; research and discovery that advances knowledge, inspires creativity and improves human health; and the global engagement of students, faculty and staff that transforms lives and communities;

**WHEREAS**, The University's goal is to foster a commemorative landscape that reflects The University's core values of diversity and inclusion (where all people are valued and differences are recognized as an asset) and service (engaging in the application of learning and discovery to improve the human condition and support the public good at home and abroad);

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Commonwealth University's Committee on Commemorations and Memorials (the "Committee" was created through the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors' (the "Board") Memorials and Commemorations policy, which states that all requests for memorials, commemoration and/or de-commemoration be submitted in writing to the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Visitors and Board Liaison, who will refer the request to the Committee. The Committee shall make a recommendation to approve memorials, commemorations and de-commemorations to the President, who in turn shall make a recommendation to the Board.

**WHEREAS**, The Committee affirms to the President that the Department of African American Studies and its mission has been critical in shaping our educational landscape in terms of advancing our university community's understanding of black diasporic experiences, black intellectual traditions, and modes of inquiry; and significant in the role the department occupies in teaching and scholarship on race and critical pedagogies on race and racism;

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of African American Studies was successfully instituted in 1972 as the second department of its kind in the Commonwealth of Virginia;

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of African American Studies has educated thousands of our alumni, current students and community members who now are more aware and knowledgeable of the myriad ways that race impacts life course and living in America; and countless others who are critically engaged in service for the public good.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors (the "Board") acknowledges and supports the Department of African American Studies' intent to commemorate their academic building and hereby authorizes removing the name "Harrison" from the building currently occupied by the department.