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Board Matter
141st Birthday of Oakton

Members of the Board,

The area now known as Oakton celebrates its 141st birthday this year. Previously known as “Flint Hill,” the United States Postal Service refused to establish a post office with that name because one already existed in Rappahannock County. Resident and first postmaster Squire Ernest Smith proposed “Oak’s Corner” after the large Oak trees that marked the area, and the government opted to go with a shorter name. On January 24, 1883, the area was christened ‘Oakton’ with the establishment of its first post office near Rt. 123 and Hunter Mill Road.

Oakton was an area dominated by horse farms. At the turn of the 20th century, a trolley line was introduced that resulted in population growth, additional transit options, and new development in surrounding communities.

Since then, community organizations including the Hunter Mill Defense League, the Oakton Women’s Club, Options for Oakton, and Save Blake Lane Park have worked together and with the Providence Supervisor’s Office to achieve community priorities including the construction of the Oakton Library, the establishment and beautification of Oakton’s parks, improvement of pedestrian safety, and saving the

last remaining Oakton witness tree. Meanwhile, the Vale Club, Friends of the Oakton Library, and other groups have helped create a community spirit. The Greater Oakton Community Association is continuing the work of helping arrange programs benefitting residents, promoting civic engagement, advocating for improvements, and striving to preserve the area's historic and environmental assets. In addition to the many local events held in Oakton's parks and community spaces, community groups and passionately engaged residents have always worked closely with the Providence District in a partnership that is a model for community-driven governance.

Therefore, I move without objection, that a resolution be prepared to recognize Oakton's 141st birthday and be presented at the Providence District New Year Open House on January 24th, 2024.