

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Honoring the Life of Edward “Eddie” Douglas Harris

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville pauses to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of **Edward “Eddie” Douglas Harris** (July 31, 1956 – December 28, 2025), a visionary leader, storyteller, and son of the 10th and Preston community; and

WHEREAS fondly referred to by some as **Eddie** and by others as **Ducey**, he was a product of the Charlottesville Public Schools system, where he drew strength from the mentorship of educators like Ms. Josephine Whitsett and Ms. Teresa Walker-Price; and

WHEREAS Eddie demonstrated profound resilience, overcoming personal and systemic challenges to transform his life into one of service, proving that a person’s past does not define their capacity to build a monumental future; and

WHEREAS Eddie’s commitment to his community was felt by many, as evidenced by his dedicated work with the **Real Dads** program with **ReadyKids**, where he supported young men on their journey to be better fathers, he was most remembered as a kind, caring, and always willing to help kind of person; and

WHEREAS in 2011, Eddie founded **Vinegar Hill Magazine**, starting as a grassroots newsletter to provide a necessary counter-narrative to local media, ensuring that the warmth, intelligence, and entrepreneurial spirit of the Black community were documented with dignity and truth; and

WHEREAS through his leadership, Vinegar Hill Magazine has grown into a vital cultural institution, reaching thousands of readers and fostering a new generation of writers, artists, and activists dedicated to preserving Black history and promoting social equity; and

WHEREAS Eddie Harris lived by the mantra that “the sky is the limit,” successfully building a legacy intended to outlast his own earthly time - a thread that continues to reunite and strengthen the local Black community, being honored with the 2020 Alicia B. Lugo Award for community service;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council hereby proclaims our deepest gratitude for the life of **EDWARD “EDDIE” / “DUCEY” HARRIS** and urge community members to recognize his contributions to community mentorship, journalism, and the restoration of local history. His imprint on this city is indelible, and his vision will continue to inspire us for generations to come.

Signed and dated the 30th day of December 2025.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk