**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND APPLAUD RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE’S SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER’S PROGRAM FOR ITS EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN ADDRESSING ISSUES OF EQUALITY IN SCHOOLS AND FOR RECEIVING DUE RECOGNITION FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION BY WINNING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA EXEMPLARY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER’S RECOGNITION PROGRAM.

Whereas, the members of the Senate of South Carolina find it altogether fitting and proper to pause in their deliberations to recognize the good work done and strides made by the Richland County School District One’s School Resource Officer’s Program to further equality and safety in schools; and

Whereas, Richland County School District One’s School Resource Officer’s Program is being recognized at the 2017 Moving Forward Together National Summit*.* Through a vigorous vetting process, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission has selected Richland One as one of only three State winners in the 2017 South Carolina Exemplary School Resource Officer’s Recognition Program; and

Whereas, the primary purpose of the Moving Forward Together National Summit is to improve race relations with the institutions entrusted to advance, educate, nurture, protect, and serve all citizens; and

Whereas, the Summit convenes in Columbia on June 12 and 13, 2017, at the Metropolitan Convention Center. The celebration honoring Richland One will take place on Tuesday, June 13, 2017; and

Whereas, the need for the Summit emerged from an incident that took place in 2015 at Spring Valley High School involving a violent classroom confrontation between a black female student and a white School Resource Officer. The South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board Members teamed up with Chairwoman Joyce Dickerson, the Richland County Council, the Richland County Sheriff’s Department, and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Inc., to ensure that the incident would be harnessed as a learning opportunity; and

Whereas, the work of this group of organizations and individuals paid off with an outstanding Summit in 2016, providing a safe environment for district and community teams to discuss complex issues surrounding race relations, the role of law enforcement, and the community in educational settings, and thereby, allowing teams to return to their local districts and communities with new ideas on how to implement better systems; and

Whereas, this year, the Summit will feature keynote speakers and breakout sessions, which will allow teams to bring back ideas to discuss and utilize to better improve race relations and cultural understanding within their schools, with law enforcement, and with other institutions entrusted to serve all citizens equally. Breakout sessions will focus on topics as diverse as the role of the faith community in race relations, presentations by the Center of Fathers and Families, presentations by the law enforcement community, the Jewish Anti‑Defamation League, the Muslim Peace and Integration Council of North America, the mental health community, and many more timely topics; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate of South Carolina commend Richland School District One’s School Resource Officer’s Program for the admirable work they have done to create a better education setting for the children of Richland County and look forward to hearing of future accomplishments. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and applaud Richland County School District One’s School Resource Officer’s Program for its extraordinary work in addressing issues of equality in schools and for receiving due recognition from the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission by winning the 2017 South Carolina Exemplary School Resource Officer’s Recognition Program.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to personnel at Richland County School District One.

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