**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR IVORY N. MATHEWS, CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, FOR HER MANY OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND TO WISH HER LASTING SUCCESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, in July 2019, Ivory N. Mathews joined the Columbia Housing Authority during a tumultuous time, and she immediately made an impact, taking bold steps and shattering the status quo to be named one of the Midlands Fifty Most Influential by *Columbia Business Monthly* in 2020 and 2021; and

Whereas, during her tenure, she led Columbia and Cayce housing on a transformational journey with an established blueprint starting with the rollout of a Twelve‑Month Action Plan based on four principles: putting residents first, creating a climate of transparency and accountability, improving operational efficiencies, and rebuilding public trust; and

Whereas, the Twelve‑Month Action Plan has evolved into a comprehensive affordable housing strategy known as *Vision 2030*, propelled by innovation, fueled by collaboration, and accelerated by a renewed standard and culture of creating quality affordable housing in the Midlands; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mathews laid a foundation for ensuring that the Columbia Housing Authority would become a premier provider of affordable housing, creating opportunities by which all families throughout the Midlands can live, work, and prosper; and

Whereas, among her many accomplishments, she testified in November 2019 at the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in support of CO ALERTS ACT of 2019, cosponsored by Senators Tim Scott (R‑SC) and Robert Menendez (D‑NJ), that would require all public housing authorities nationwide to install carbon monoxide detectors in all units. The bill ultimately became federal law with the passage of the 2021 American Rescue Plan; and

Whereas, the Columbia Housing Authority launched an Affordable Housing Bond Program serving as a conduit for the issuance of 859 million dollars in affordable housing tax‑exempt bonds for the preservation and development of 3,465 affordable units throughout the city of Columbia, Richland County, and the City of Cayce, as well as *Vision 2030*, a 500 million‑dollar Affordable Housing Preservation, Redevelopment, and New Construction Plan; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mathews convened a 1.2 million dollar rehabilitation plan for the preservation of all forty‑four affordable housing units under Cayce Housing’s portfolio; and

Whereas, the Columbia Housing Authority was awarded forty‑seven National Awards of Merit in Administrative Innovation and Resident Services categories from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO); and

Whereas, under Mrs. Mathews’ leadership, the Columbia Housing Authority developed and launched the Employee Empowerment Apprenticeship Program for maintenance employees, a United States Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program, with Midlands Technical College and Carolina Apprenticeship; and

Whereas, during her tenure, the Columbia Housing Authority has paid 32 million dollars annually in rental assistance to over 2,000 private property owners, providing approximately 5,000 families with an affordable place to call home, and has provided affordable housing services to more than 16,000 individuals throughout the City of Cayce, City of Columbia, and Richland County; and

Whereas, her efforts have ended homelessness for 557 formerly homeless families through several Housing First programs, including the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program and the new Emergency Housing Vouchers Program; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate deeply appreciates the valuable contributions that Ivory Matthews has made to so many citizens in the Midlands through the Columbia Housing Authority, and the members wish her well in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Ivory N. Mathews, CEO and executive director of to the Columbia Housing Authority, for her many outstanding contributions and wish her lasting success in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ivory N. Mathews.

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