WHEREAS, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) began in 1991 as the Learning in Retirement Institute, the brainchild of the Fairfax County Commission on Aging and visionary Kathryn Brook; and

WHEREAS, the Institute’s mission is to offer to its members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can share their talents, experiences and skills, explore new interests, discover and develop latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and socialize with others of similar interests; and

WHEREAS, the Institute became affiliated with George Mason University as part of the university’s strategic vision to extend its learning mission into the community and was thereafter generously endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation of California, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life in the United States through education and the arts; and

WHEREAS, OLLI Mason offers retirees in Fairfax County and across Northern Virginia over 600 courses—from arts to zoology, religion to science, along with special events and excursions during four terms annually across three campuses, and has become a premier lifelong learning institutes in the United States, a robust, first-rate educational and social Institute, with 1,100 members; and

WHEREAS, OLLI Mason converted to online programming during the pandemic, as an unprecedented number of older Americans were shuttered at home to avoid the serious health risks of COVID-19, offering an intellectual and social lifeline to many; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on behalf of all Fairfax County residents, does hereby congratulate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University on its 30th anniversary, for its foresight, initiative and resounding success in providing opportunities and enhancing quality of life for retirees in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

June 1, 2021
Date