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**November 19, 2024**  
**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay and**  
**Supervisors Alcorn, Bierman, Walkinshaw, Jimenez, Lusk, Smith, Storck,**  
**and Herrity**  
**Recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Children’s Science Center**

Members of the Board,

November marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Children’s Science Center of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit organization that began as a dream to make STEM education accessible to all children in our community. Originally envisioned as a “Museum without Walls,” this idea gained momentum 10 years ago with the donation of a van that enabled the organization to expand its reach and services. Since 2015, they have been housed in a temporary space within Fair Oaks Mall. In 2023 alone, the museum welcomed over 23,000 individuals – all within this temporary facility.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the Children’s Science Center has brought exciting STEM activities and educational programming to schools, events, and neighborhoods across the DMV. This mobile approach has allowed them to engage directly with children and families while fostering a love for science, technology, engineering, and math and all that the sciences can offer us. Recently, they have expanded their efforts to include programs in Fairfax County, providing even more opportunities for students to explore and develop their skills in STEM fields. We are proud of this growth and the impact these programs have on the next generation of innovators.

Through years of diligent work and generous support from donors, the Children’s Science Center will soon break ground on a \$100 million project for a full-scale, state-of-the-art Northern Virginia Science Center, in partnership with the Science Museum of Virginia. This milestone will enable the organization to further broaden its impact by expanding the programming and reach of their permanent home while continuing to deliver mobile STEM programs to communities across our region. Knowing that we need to expand our

workforce to fill the current and future tech jobs in our region, this expanded facility will help inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators in Northern Virginia and beyond.

Therefore, I move that a resolution be prepared to celebrate the Children's Science Center's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognize its significant contributions to Fairfax County and the region inside or outside the Board room.