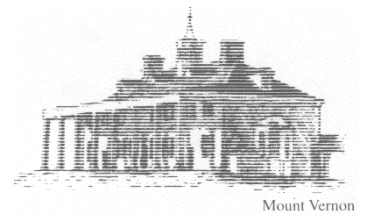




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Recognizing March as Alternative Dispute Resolution Month

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Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) refers to a number of processes and techniques used to manage and resolve conflict. ADR is an alternative to traditional adversarial processes and helps disputing parties reach mutually agreeable outcomes that consider the needs of all involved and minimize cost, while improving communication and morale. Alternative Dispute Resolution services have been especially helpful during the pandemic as stress and isolation have played a part in creating and intensifying conflict.

Fairfax County has historically celebrated March as ADR month, and each year chooses a leader in this field to receive recognition. This year's recipient is Dr. Pamela Struss, who is an Adjunct Professor at the Carter School for Peace and Conflict at George Mason University. Dr. Struss teaches mediation theory, interpersonal conflict, and conflict resolution classes, and she is an active mediation practitioner who has been certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia. Additionally, Dr. Struss focuses on creating opportunities for awareness and understanding between people in communities that have experienced racial inequities, and seeks strategies for building bridges between communities.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, without objection, I ask that we recognize March as Alternative Dispute Resolution Month in Fairfax County and that a proclamation be presented out of the Board room to Dr. Pamela Struss.