

City of Norfolk  
Virginia

Resolution

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong has dedicated 26 years to Norfolk Public Schools, serving as assistant principal, principal, senior director of alternative options, executive director of secondary schools, assistant superintendent of human resources, chief of staff, and superintendent of schools, continually demonstrating an exceptional unwavering commitment to the education and wellbeing of Norfolk's children; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong earned statewide and national recognition for her exceptional leadership and distinguished contributions to academic excellence, being named the 2005 Virginia Outstanding Middle School Principal of the Year and the 2006 National Middle School Principal of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong led the development of the school division's strategic plan, Continuing the Drive – Equity and Excellence for All, marking the first time in many years that community stakeholders were actively included in charting a bold vision for the future of our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong successfully led Norfolk Public Schools through a global pandemic, and for the first time in the division's history, transformed it into a 1 to 1 student to mobile device division, provided internet access for students in their homes, and established the NPS Virtual Scholars Academy – the only remote learning instructional program of its kind still operating in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, alongside her superintendent colleagues, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong was named 2020–2021 Virginia Superintendent of the Year for her collaborative and compassionate leadership, ensuring students and families received vital academic, technological, and emotional support during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong led historic pay improvements across Norfolk Public Schools, including a 30% increase in starting teacher salaries and equitable raises for long-time staff – making Norfolk Public Schools one of the region's most competitive employers; and

**WHEREAS**, under Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong's leadership, school safety was significantly enhanced through the expansion of security personnel and the installation of a weapons detection system in every school; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure, Norfolk Public Schools celebrated seven state championships in football, baseball, and track, while also launching the division's first modern turf field project signifying major investments in student athletes; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong was honored with the **Superintendents to Watch** award from the National School Public Relations Association for her exceptional and innovative leadership.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

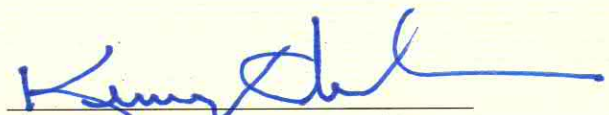
**Section 1:** that the Norfolk City Council proudly honors Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong for her extraordinary service and transformative leadership of Norfolk Public Schools and extends its deepest appreciation for her lasting impact on the students, staff, and broader Norfolk community.

**Section 2:** that this resolution be entered into the official record of the Norfolk City Council and a copy be presented to Dr. Sharon I. Byrdsong in recognition of her enduring legacy.



Richard Allan Bull  
City Clerk





Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.  
Mayor