



**PROCLAMATION, in the spirit of Black History Month, honoring Edna Campbell,
Burgundie Spears, and Aaliyah Washington-Purry for their annual
Christmas in Richmond Program**

WHEREAS, in 2006 Burgundie Spears and her mother, Edna Campbell shared a vision to create a welcoming and inclusive community holiday celebration on Christmas for people who would otherwise be facing loneliness and despair on this day, and;

WHEREAS, Burgundie Spears initiated the program called "Christmas in Richmond" motivated by her deep compassion for residents of Richmond, particularly in the North Richmond and Iron Triangle areas who have suffered disproportionately from poverty and violence, and;

WHEREAS, in 2005 Aaliyah Washington-Purry joined the family and has been an active participant generously contributing her time and energy to make Christmas in Richmond a truly memorable event that goes a long way towards healing the pain of poverty and building strong community relationships where people take care of each other, and;

WHEREAS, Christmas in Richmond has grown over the years to partner with a number of individuals and groups from the community, and with the help of over 75 volunteers has been able to serve over 750 families in the city of Richmond, and;

WHEREAS, this past year, Christmas in Richmond included a sumptuous holiday meal served to hundreds of neighbors at the North Richmond Senior Center and at the Nevin Community Center, all funded through community donations and volunteer labor, and;

WHEREAS, many of us on the City Council have had the pleasure of attending these diverse celebrations that provide community members an opportunity to share a beautiful Christmas with one another.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that I, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, on behalf of the Richmond City Council, do hereby take great pleasure in honoring Edna Campbell, Burgundie Spears and Aaliyah Washington-Purry for the gift that Christmas in Richmond is to so many in our community. We sincerely thank you for all that you do, and for inviting us to be a part of the celebrations that provide community members an opportunity to share a beautiful Christmas with one another.



Gayle McLaughlin, Mayor
City of Richmond
February 28, 2012

