



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-03 National Pan-Hellenic Council Recognition Month

WHEREAS, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), colloquially known as the "Divine Nine" (D9), is a collaborative umbrella council composed of historically African American fraternities and sororities; and

WHEREAS, the NPHC was formed as a permanent organization on May 10, 1930 on the campus of Howard University, in Washington, D.C. ; and

WHEREAS, the founding members of the NPHC were Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta. The council's membership expanded as Alpha Phi Alpha (1931), Phi Beta Sigma (1931), Sigma Gamma Rho (1937), and Iota Phi Theta (1996) joined this coalition of Black Greek letter organizations; and

WHEREAS, each of the nine NPHC organizations evolved during a period when African Americans were being denied essential rights and privileges afforded others. Racial isolation on predominantly white campuses and social barriers of class on all campuses created a need for African Americans to align themselves with other individuals sharing common goals and ideals; and

WHEREAS, the African American (Black) Greek-lettered organization movement took on the personae of a haven and outlet, which could foster brotherhood and sisterhood in the pursuit to bring about social change through the development of social programs that would create positive change for Blacks and the country; and

WHEREAS, today these fraternities and sororities have a continued demonstrated commitment to serving their fellow residents through programs of human service, outreach, mentorship and community and public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim January 2023 as **National Pan-Hellenic Council Recognition Month** in Charles County and do commend this observance to all our residents.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners