

House Resolution 1205

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending Dr. Debra Farley; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Debra Farley, a distinguished graduate of the TIUA School of Business in
3 Duluth, Georgia, has dedicated her career to the advancement of economic development and
4 small businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Farley serves in dual capacities as the associate executive director and
6 certified business analyst with the Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center and
7 Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, demonstrating her commitment to fostering
8 entrepreneurship and local economic growth; and

9 WHEREAS, her career began in her hometown of Macon, Georgia, where she worked in
10 manufacturing for a shirt company and in supervised customer service at the *Macon*
11 *Telegraph and News*, showcasing her early commitment to hard work and dedication; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Farley's tenacity, passion, and resilience led her to acquire three degrees:
13 an associate's degree in business administration, a Bachelor of Science in business
14 management (summa cum laude), and a master's degree in global management from Thomas

15 Nelson Community College, Hampton University, and Cambridge College respectively,
16 highlighting her commitment to education and personal growth; and

17 WHEREAS, during her 32 year-long tenure with the Hampton Roads Small Business
18 Development Center, Dr. Farley initiated the Small and Minority Business Series, a
19 four-week training program often heralded as a "mini MBA," showcasing her commitment
20 to providing accessible training for business professionals; and

21 WHEREAS, she has created innovative group training programs, facilitated opportunities for
22 business owners to advertise their ventures, and designed classes to assist low to
23 medium-income participants in starting small businesses, highlighting her dedication to
24 inclusivity and community development; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Farley has been recognized for her outstanding accomplishments, receiving
26 honors such as the Outstanding Alumni award from Hampton University, the Virginia SBDC
27 State Star, the Minority Business Advocate of the Year award from the Virginia Peninsula
28 Chamber of Commerce, and Women in Business Achievement award from *Inside Business*,
29 among others; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Farley holds certifications and professional affiliations, including being a
31 Growth Wheel Certified Business Advisor, having an Economic Development Finance
32 Certification through the National Development Council, and being a member of the
33 National Association of SBDC's (ASBDC), showcasing her commitment to professional
34 development; and

35 WHEREAS, she volunteers her time as an active member of Saint Paul A.M.E. Church,
36 serving in various capacities such as Sunday school superintendent, exemplifying her
37 dedication to community service and spiritual leadership; and

38 WHEREAS, in recognition of Black History Month, Dr. Farley is the recipient of the
39 President Barack Obama LeGeorgiacy Lifetime Achievement Award, symbolizing her
40 extraordinary contributions to her community and beyond.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body honor and commend Dr. Debra Farley for her exemplary
43 leadership, dedication to economic development, commitment to education, and outstanding
44 contributions to her community.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr.
47 Debra Farley.