

**RESOLUTION NO. 13227-19**

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION**

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Newport News, Virginia, would like to recognize and commend The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, The Catalyst Effect launched a collaborative, nationwide youth-led awareness to action movement called Silence Empowers Violence...Break the Code!, to address the problem of unreported and unsolved crimes and violence; and

WHEREAS, The Catalyst Effect team created and actively engages participants in youth-led, Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams. These teams are encouraged and empowered to break the code of silence when it comes to violence by being a voice for those who are too afraid to speak up or take action and by taking a public stand against violence and crime in their respective communities. They also create violence prevention, intervention, and post-intervention community engagement initiatives and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams hosted the first Silence Empowers Violence...Break the Code Youth Symposium in Newport News. This symposium was youth-led and participants including other youth, adults, law enforcement, educators, and clergy members took part in various forums and educational trainings; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams hosted a two and a half mile Break the Code Walk! to bring community awareness to their cause. The walk concluded with a community resource fair for participants to learn about and partner with local violence prevention organizations; and

WHEREAS, to help accomplish their mission, The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Actions Teams have partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice, Newport News Public Schools, Newport News Department of Human Services-Youth Services Division, Newport News Youth Gang and Violence Prevention, Newport News Police Department, The Messiah Center, City Life, Life House, Emmaus and Real World Church, and other faith-based organizations, businesses and community individuals; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, House Joint Resolution No. 630 designating the third full week of September as Silence Empowers Violence Break the Code Awareness-to-Action Week in Virginia, was passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Actions Teams will observe Silence Empowers Violence Break the Code Awareness-to-Action Week by educating communities about the psychological trauma and monetary effects of unresolved and unreported crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Newport News wishes to recognize and commend The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams on their efforts in making the City of Newport News a safer place to live, learn, work, and play.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia:

1. That it hereby recognizes and commends The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams in the City of Newport News, and extends its best wishes for continued success.

2. That it hereby recognizes and draws to the attention of all citizens of the City of Newport News the Silence Empowers Violence Break the Code Awareness-to-Action Week during the third full week of September.

3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of this body and that a copy be presented to The Catalyst Effect and the Silence Empowers Violence Community Care and Action Teams.

4. That this resolution shall be in effect on and after the date of its adoption, May 28, 2019.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS ON May 28, 2019

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC  
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS  
Mayor

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk