PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2012 AS "WALK AND BICYCLE TO SCHOOL MONTH" AND OCTOBER 3, 2012, AS "INTERNATIONAL WALK AND BICYCLE TO SCHOOL DAY" IN FAIRFAX

Whereas, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens of Fairfax; and

Whereas, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children and being able to walk or bicycle to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and

Whereas, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution, creating over 25% of community traffic at the beginning and end of each school day; and

Whereas, an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip to school each day and the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air pollution; and

Whereas, community members and leaders continue to make and implement plans to enable Fairfax's children to safely walk and bicycle in our community; and

Whereas, children, parents and community leaders around the world are joining together to walk to school and promote safe walking and bicycling conditions in their communities; and

Whereas, Walk and Bicycle to School Month in October and Walk and Bicycle to School Week the first week in October have proven to be helpful in encouraging children to safely walk and bicycle to school and in creating and promoting local Safe Route to Schools programs across the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the Town of Fairfax supports all efforts to improve the safety of students walking and bicycling to school, encourages more children to safely walk and bicycle to school, and promotes the benefits of walking and cycling to school, including physical activity and better student health and physical fitness, improved academics, reduced congestion and pollution, and a more livable community,

Now Therefore, Be It Proclaimed that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax designates the month of October 2012 as "Walk and Bicycle to School Month" and proclaims October 3, 2012, as "International Walk and Bicycle to School Day" in Fairfax, and urges all students, parents, teachers, administrators, schools, and school districts in to participate in these events, and encourages everyone to consider the safety and health of children this month and every month.

PAM HARTWELL-HERRERO, MAYOR

AGENDA ITEM # 15