



IV.-C.

Agenda Item

County of Hanover

Board Meeting: February 11, 2015

Subject: Request for Adoption of Proclamation – Dana Nelson, Operation Hope;
Mechanicsville Magisterial District

**Summary of
Agenda Item:** Upon the request of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, a proclamation for Board of Supervisors consideration has been created expressing appreciation to Mr. Dana Nelson, Founder of Operation Hope, for his generous contributions to the youth of Hanover County.

Mr. Nelson, along with Ms. Katie Stillwell, established Operation Hope in 2004 with the mission to raise funds for the purchase and installation of all-inclusive, accessible playgrounds to be located in various Hanover County parks. These playgrounds were designed to accommodate all children, regardless of physical limitations. Mr. Nelson's work has resulted in the donation and installation of three all-inclusive, accessible playgrounds at Pole Green Park, Poor Farm Park and, most recently, Courthouse Park. The estimated value of all playground equipment donated and installed is approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Nelson's vision, generosity and caring of the youth of Hanover County will have a positive impact for future generations of children.

The Hanover County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission endorsed approval of this proclamation at their January 26, 2015 meeting.

**County
Administrator's
Recommended
Board Motion:**

A motion to adopt this proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is the mission of the Hanover County Parks and Recreation Department to promote, advocate, and provide the highest quality park and recreational resources and leisure services; and

WHEREAS Operation Hope was established in 2004 by Dana Nelson and Katie Stillwell, recognizing the need of many children in our area to have an accessible play area that they could share with their friends and interact with other children; and

WHEREAS Dana Nelson has for more than 30 years provided leadership, scholarship and stewardship in our community; unselfish personal investment in the education of future leaders; professional counsel to others based on his life experiences; spiritual health and wholeness to others in all walks and stages of life; and

WHEREAS Dana Nelson in true characteristic of a servant-leader is responsible for serving the needs of others, creates a greater sense of community among people, builds collaborative unions, achieves positive results with humility and recognition of others, and

WHEREAS Dana Nelson approached the Hanover County Department of Parks and Recreation with a vision to create multiple accessible play areas within County parks and worked tirelessly within the community soliciting funds, recruiting volunteers and educating others of the diverse needs of Hanover County youth; and

WHEREAS Dana Nelson and Operation Hope were responsible for the donation and installation of three all-inclusive, accessible playgrounds at Pole Green Park, Poor Farm Park and Courthouse Park; and

WHEREAS Dana Nelson and Operation Hope's donation and installation of playgrounds to Hanover County was valued at approximately \$500,000 and has brought years of laughter and joy to the many children, parents and friends utilizing this equipment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hanover County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses heartfelt appreciation to Dana Nelson for his vision, generosity, and caring of the youth of Hanover County so that future generations of children may play, learn and experience the joys of childhood together.