City of Columbia
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Modjeska Monteith Simkins stated that, “There is no more debased and groveling a slave than one who sees what is wrong but who fears man so much more than he does God that he cannot gather the strength to speak out loudly against that wrong;” and with her birthday being on December 5th, as she has been the role model for the RICH Legacy Coalition; and

WHEREAS, members of the RICH (Rebuilding Individual Character Habits) Program, under the directorship of Dr. Germon “Mama G” Miller-Bey, PhD, celebrated their 5th Anniversary on December 30th 2015, in concert with the Genuine Determination Network, The G.R.A.C.E. Foundation, Corner Stone Baptist Church, G.O.O.D. Kids, Inc., WORD (Women of Royal Distinction), Building Better Communities and Families, Progressive Network, Akeru Legacy Council, Girls Rock Columbia, Black Minds Matter, Simple Justice, Concerned Black Men, DPK Printing, Access Multimedia, and The Nickelodeon Theater; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals have donated over 300 hundred hours a month as mentors providing life skills services, Dr. Arvilla Payne-Jackson, PhD, Dr. Diedre Hudson, MD, Dr. Abd’Allah Adesanya, JD, Kondi Sibande, RN-HCA, Kyoshi Bill Sanford, DJ Prince Ice, COL. (RET) Carroll Lucas, François Ashe-Goins, RN MPH FAAN, Harold “Noonie” Ward, L. Bridges, Liz Krejci, Christopher Davis, Willie Bennett, Brett Bursey, Wayne Pankey, Bonita Clemons, Kim Stroud, Kevin Britting; and

WHEREAS, the following young adults, have participated in community activities to elevate positive communications throughout the State of South Carolina to stop the violence with their efforts having been acknowledged by the South Carolina Black Caucus, The South Carolina Department of Probation and Parole, The National Peace Alliance, Mrs. Mary Lewis Grow, founder of the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence, and countless other community leaders, these young adults are: Nathaniel Seymour, Art Lindenbaum, Christopher Sullivan, Supreme Emanuel Page, J. Belton, Wayne Borders, Mila Burgess-Conway, Candace Pringle Holcombe, Demarques Williams, Evon Hoskins, Felicia Snyder, Tabitha Hames, Victoria Moses, Brittney Austin, Jahmeil “Historian” Anthony, Ivan Vernon, James Boykin, Crystal Taylor, Maurice Jones, Shelton Betterton, Mike “Mentality”, Pedro LopezdeVictoria, Robert Wyle, Optimus Yupp, Antonio “Ten Tu” Elleby, Neicey Battle, Felicia Berry, Tori Thompson, Bryant Will, Jordan Myers, Steve Jefferson, Shemara Henderson, Kristina Baird, Blue Crittenden, and Elizabeth Bush by donating over 1000 hours a month to stem the rising violence that claims so many lives throughout the United States every year, especially during this stressful time of racial discord here in our State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia commends all of those who honor the legacy of Modjeska Monteith Simkins and dedicates their lives to maintaining peace in their communities and were invited to join with these young adults as they shared their proactive solutions and group resolutions at the 5th Anniversary Celebration on December 30th at the Pacific Park Community Center Department of Parks and Recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim January 5, 2016 as

Young Adults Pledging for Cultural Understanding Day

in the great City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

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Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor

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Sam Davis                     Tameika Isaac Devine
District I, Council Member                                          At-Large, Council Member

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Leona Plaugh                                                      Moe Baddourah
District IV, Council Member                                                                     District III, Council Member

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At-Large, Council Member                                                                        District II, Council Member