

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD, currently is a research fellow in the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health [NIH], National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [NIAID], Vaccine Research Center; and

WHEREAS, Kizzmekia Corbett, raised in the Cedar Grove community of Orange County, North Carolina, attended Orange County Schools during which time she spent two summers in the Project SEED Summer Intern program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, thus becoming a testament to her innate abilities and to the value of investing in the education of youth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corbett received her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, with a secondary major in Sociology, in 2008, from the University of Maryland–Baltimore County, where she was a Meyerhoff Scholar and an NIH undergraduate scholar; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corbett earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in 2014; and

WHEREAS, a viral immunologist by training, Dr. Corbett was appointed to the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory in 2014, and has focused her work on developing novel coronavirus vaccines, including mRNA-1273, which has become a primary vaccine against the virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Corbett and her team designed the vaccine concept incorporated in mRNA-1273 from viral sequence and rapidly deployed to Moderna, Inc., for FDA-approved Phase 1 clinical trial, which began only 66 days from the viral sequence release, and was shown to be 94.1% effective in Phase 3 trial and received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corbett has received numerous honors, awards and fellowships, has been a keynote speaker and invited lecturer at universities, medical schools and research centers across the nation, and has published as a co-author, senior author and first author; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corbett has been acknowledged by Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director, for her research and results in the development of a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, and is now receiving national acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corbett is an active member of the NIH Fellows Committee, an advocate of STEM education and vaccine awareness, and a mentor, and engages in outreach to African American youth and adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Chapel Hill Town Council proclaim, Thursday, January 28th, 2021 to be

DR. KIZZMEKIA S. CORBETT DAY

in Chapel Hill in recognition of her remarkable accomplishments in the sciences and medicine, in acknowledgement of her unprecedented research and success in thwarting a life-threatening pandemic, and in honor of her compassionate dedication to the health, safety and well-being of humanity.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF
JANUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.



