



# Proclamation



## DR. KIZZMEKIA S. CORBETT DAY

**WHEREAS**, Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD, is currently 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**, Dr. Corbett, raised in the Cedar Grove community of Orange County, North Carolina, attended A.L. Stanback Middle School and graduated from Orange High School; 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 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 a 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, a mentor, and engages in outreach to African American youth and adults.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, NC, do hereby proclaim January 26, 2021 (Dr. Corbett's 35th birthday) as **DR. KIZZMEKIA S. CORBETT DAY** in the Town of Carrboro, in recognition of her remarkable research and success in creating a vaccination to defeat the pandemic. I urge all of the residents of Carrboro to take time to recognize and honor this outstanding achievement of one of Orange County's own daughters.

This, the 19th day of January 2021.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor