

**WHEREAS**, General Laura J. Richardson is the 32nd Commander of U.S. Southern Command, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication to our nation's defense;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson is a native of Northglenn, Colorado, and earned her degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado, before being commissioned into the U.S. Army as an Army Aviator;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson holds a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University's Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, furthering her expertise in national defense and strategy;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson has previously served as the Commanding General of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as well as in other prominent roles including Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command, Chief of Army Legislative Liaison to the U.S. Congress, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications at Headquarters International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson's extensive career includes commanding an Assault Helicopter Battalion in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom and serving in various high-profile staff assignments, including Military Aide to the Vice President, Army's Legislative Liaison to Congress, and Army Campaign Planner at the Pentagon;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson's distinguished service is recognized through numerous awards and decorations, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, and various other unit, service, and campaign awards, along with prestigious badges such as the Combat Action Badge and Senior Army Aviator Badge;

**WHEREAS**, General Richardson is married to Lieutenant General (Retired) Jim Richardson and is a proud mother and grandparent, reflecting the personal commitments and sacrifices made in support of her distinguished military career;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, Mayor and Council of the City of Doral, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby recognize and commend General Laura J. Richardson for her outstanding service and contributions to our nation. Her exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to the defense of our country are a source of pride and inspiration to all.