

Senate Resolution 157

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Jackson of the 41st, Harrell of the 40th, Jordan of the 6th, Au of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Lejla Prljaca; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Lejla Prljaca immigrated to the United States at the age of 14 with her younger
3 brother as a refugee of the Bosnian War, while her parents were forced to remain behind in
4 former Yugoslavia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, despite arriving to the United States at a young age, she demonstrated profound
6 resiliency and dedication in adopting to her new country by overcoming the language barrier
7 and becoming a formal United States citizen in 2001; and
- 8 WHEREAS, she graduated as valedictorian of her class, earned a bachelor's degree in
9 political science from Georgia State University, and obtained a master's degree in public
10 administration from the University of Georgia; and
- 11 WHEREAS, driven by her personal experience with housing instability, Lejla Prljaca
12 actively gravitated towards social justice advocacy through her career in affordable housing
13 development; and

14 WHEREAS, her dedication to excellence is best demonstrated by her service as executive
15 director of the Lawrenceville Housing Authority and CEO of the Gwinnett Housing
16 Corporation, where she leveraged her organizational resources to create approximately \$80
17 million in affordable housing based economic development; and

18 WHEREAS, Lejla Prljaca has brought national attention to the challenges faced by residents
19 seeking affordable housing, and she has long served as an active volunteer with organizations
20 that echo her mission of addressing housing instability within communities throughout
21 Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentlewoman has given inspiration to many through her high
23 ideals, morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens, and she possesses the vast wisdom
24 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
25 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding individual be
27 appropriately honored for her many wonderful contributions on behalf of the citizens of
28 Georgia.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend Lejla Prljaca for her dedicated service to the citizens of Georgia and
31 extend sincere best wishes for continued happiness and success.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Lejla Prljaca.