

## **2022 Board Resolution**

### **Norfolk State University Board of Visitors Resolution to Award Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree Ms. Melissa “Missy” Arnette Elliott**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Melissa “Missy” Arnette Elliott has been a creative force in the music industry and beyond for more than thirty years and debuted her first album in 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997 Ms. Elliott created her own record label, Goldmind Inc., and signed with Elektra Records; she became a rapper, singer, and record producer; and

**WHEREAS**, Missy “Misdemeanor” Elliott has been nominated for 22 Grammy Awards and honored to win four Grammy Awards in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2006, five BET Awards as Best Female Hip-Hop Artist, and three Billboard Music Awards as Female R&B Artist of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 Missy Elliott made history as the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame because of her unique poetry writing style, and has achieved platinum certification of four albums and multiple other wins from MTV Music Awards, Soul Train Awards, American Music Awards, and Essence Black Women in Music Visionary Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Elliott was bestowed with an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music, and has supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities with scholarship funds, and charitable contributions to support awareness of HIV/AIDS, and in 2008 was an inductee of Vanity Fair’s Hall of Fame because of her involvement in a variety of campaigns to donate funds to medical research to eliminate HIV/AIDS and educate youths to overcome abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2019, Missy Elliott became the first female rapper to receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award during the 36<sup>th</sup> annual MTV Video Music Awards; and has worked with many world-renowned musicians, personalities, scholars, students, artists, activists and athletes to positively promote women’s empowerment and shape the future; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Elliott was recently celebrated in her hometown in Portsmouth, VA at her former Manor High School and given the Key to the City of Portsmouth with a newly named street permanently cemented as Missy Elliott Boulevard; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that after due consideration, careful review, and recommendation by the NSU Honorary Degree Committee, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University President, and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors, in addition to review for legal sufficiency by the University Counsel, the Board of Visitors hereby approves this resolution to award the Norfolk State University Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree to Ms. Melissa “Missy” Arnette Elliott which is to be presented on the 10th day of December, 2022 during the university’s Commencement Exercises.