

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with requirements for the American Alliance of Museum's accreditation process, it is necessary that a statement of support by resolution for the Office of Historic Alexandria be received from the parent organization, the Alexandria City Council, expressing a commitment to support the City-owned museums and historic sites, Alexandria Archaeology program, and Archives and Records Management program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Historic Alexandria was established July 1, 1982 as a department within the City of Alexandria to oversee the City-owned museums, assist with the City Archives, develop interpretive programs, and establish a storage facility for artifacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the department showcases the City's centuries of history through its museums and institutions including Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Alexandria Black History Museum, Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, Archives and Records Management Center, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Freedom House Museum, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum; and

**WHEREAS**, the department also oversees and manages a variety of other historic sites including the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, Murry-Dick-Fawcett House, Alexandria Union Station, the African American Heritage Park, Watson Reading Room, the Lloyd House, and the historic cemeteries of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Historic Alexandria engages residents and visitors alike at the museums, in the community, and digitally through tours, public programming, social media, exhibits, special events, product development, and outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria relies heavily on its historic qualities to attract tourists, businesses, and residents as well as maintain its quality neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the department is the lead agency managing the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, a City-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand and acknowledge its history of racial terror and work toward creating a more welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Historic Alexandria directly contributes to all these efforts, in turn supporting the economic vitality and sustainability of our community through heritage tourism programs, interdepartmental planning assistance, cultural resource management, records management, historic preservation planning activities, restorative justice work; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will continue to invest in its history and encourage preservation to ensure Alexandria's tax base, economic viability, livable neighborhoods, and community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Alexandria, hereby expresses its commitment of support for the City-owned museums and institutions operated by the Office of Historic Alexandria, and requests that the American

Association of Museums fully support the application of the Office of Historic Alexandria for accreditation of its museum system.

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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JUSTIN M. WILSON,  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Gloria Sitton, CMC City Clerk