

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the local, national and international contributions of women in history deserve recognition and celebration; and all people benefit from the profound and undeniable impact of the Women's Rights Movement; and women continue to make profound contributions to the growth and strength of our City; and

WHEREAS, The Vola Lawson Lobby honors Alexandria's first woman to serve as City Manager. During her tenure from 1985 until 2001, Vola Lawson developed the Office of Women and further empowered them by improving childcare, education, economic development, and housing. She was inducted into the Virginia Women's Hall of Fame in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Woodson, Alexandria's first African American female City Council member, was elected in May 2000, serving two consecutive three-year terms. Before her council tenure, she was a member of executive boards for the Coalition for Fairness in Education and Alexandria's NAACP chapter. Additionally, she contributed to the Fair Housing Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Patsy Ticer, the City's first woman mayor, was elected in 1991. Following two mayoral terms, she became the first woman from Alexandria elected to the Virginia Senate, serving from 1996-2011. In her 15-years as a State Senator, Patsy Ticer championed health, social services and environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, first elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1985, Del Pepper spent over 35 years advocating for Alexandria's West End. Councilwoman Pepper was the longest-serving city council member, and a strong advocate for women, children, seniors and families; and

WHEREAS, Sister Annie B. Rose (1893-1989) dedicated her life to improving the lives of African Americans in Alexandria, became the first African American president of the Alexandria Women's Civic Association, helped organize people for the March on Washington, founded the Alexandria Commission on Aging, served on the Urban League Board, and received more than 30 awards from local and national organizations for her activism. The Annie B. Rose House is named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, The Commission for Women advocates for women across the city, focusing on issues disproportionately affecting them. In 2024, it aims to educate the public and promote policy solutions on domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, affordable housing, transportation, and reproductive healthcare rights. The Commission prioritizes highlighting the diverse impact and needs of women in the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as:

"WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to expand the leadership and involvement of women in the economic, social, and political spheres of our community, and do commend all citizens to commemorate this month in gratitude for those women who have contributed to the life of the City and the nation where all have, by right, a position of equality, fairness, justice and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12th day of March, 2024.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

