

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is unwavering in its pursuit of policies and practices that affirm the inherent dignity, worth, and equality of all people, including individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, eliminating community disparities and improving engagement with historically marginalized communities are guiding priorities for all City of Alexandria staff as established by the Alexandria City Council; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into federal law to prevent discrimination based on disabilities, requiring employers provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, and creating accessibility requirements for public spaces; and

WHEREAS, on February 13, 1991, the Human Rights Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia—one of the first local human rights laws in Virginia—was updated to recognize people with disabilities as a part of the Alexandria community and to prevent discrimination based on disabilities; and

WHEREAS, despite these protections, people with disabilities continue to be at increased risk of experiencing discrimination, stigmatization, isolation, and other inequities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau reports that there are more than 44 million adults in the United States living with disabilities, including approximately 11,000 Alexandrians; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria offers services for individuals with disabilities, including therapeutic recreation programs, paratransit programs, and sensory-time exploration programs to ensure that children, adults, and seniors with disabilities are supported; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria’s Office of Human Rights supports the Commission on Persons with Disabilities in advising City leadership on policies, programs, and legislation affecting Alexandrians with disabilities and offering scholarships and awards for those same people; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month is observed annually in July by people across the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate the history and achievements of people with disabilities, take an active role in preventing discrimination against people with disabilities, and work to normalize the recognition of disabilities through promoting the visibility of this valued segment of the Alexandria community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize July 2025, as:

“DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24th day of June, 2025.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk