

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

WHEREAS, *The Heart of Gold Sickle Cell Foundation of Northern Virginia, Inc. is a nonprofit whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for persons and families impacted by Sickle Cell Disease (SCD); and*

WHEREAS, *SCD is a chronic, debilitating, genetic disorder afflicting more than 100,000 Americans primarily of African descent, but also Hispanic, South Asian, Southern European and Middle Eastern Ancestry; and*

WHEREAS, *sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States and can cause intense pain, serious infections and organ damage; and*

WHEREAS, *blood donations are critical to improve the quality of life for patients with sickle cell disease; and*

WHEREAS, *several hundred persons and families are impacted by Sickle Cell Disease in Northern Virginia.*

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

“SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and urge affected patients, their families and the general public to learn more about the disease and focus attention on its prevention, research and treatment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of September 2025.*

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk