

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society including in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have an important presence in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in Alexandria, contributing to the rich diversity of our city and its vibrant culture, businesses, schools, workforce, and civic activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends throughout our city as public servants and as active community members; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans embody resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of Arab American ancestry and cultural heritage educates our fellow Americans and counters misconceptions, bigotry, anti-Arab hate, civil rights abuses, and harmful stereotyping; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the extensive contributions and rich heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation.

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

**“NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”**

In the City of Alexandria, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, all while recognizing and expressing deep gratitude for the contributions that Arab Americans have made to the City of Alexandria, and our country, and we encourage our citizens to join us in this special observance and recognition.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

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

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk