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

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

WHEREAS, *since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples as model citizens and public servants; and*

WHEREAS, *they brought with them to America their 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, *Arab Americans have also enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous; 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, JUSTIN M. WILSON, *Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as:*

"NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, all the 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 caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24th day of April 2024.*

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

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC   City Clerk