

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes that Alexandria's waterways are essential to our community and must be protected for future generations; and*

*WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law in 2017 requiring the remediation of Alexandria's four combined sewer outfalls that date back to 1860's; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria partnered with AlexRenew to develop a plan to address combined sewer overflows, which includes a massive underground tunnel and associated facilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the RiverRenew program was implemented to capture combined sewage and return it to AlexRenew's wastewater treatment plant; and*

*WHEREAS, a tunnel boring machine was designed and manufactured to construct a 12-foot-wide, 2.2-mile-long tunnel; and*

*WHEREAS, the tunnel boring machine was dedicated to Hazel Johnson, who is affectionately known as the mother of environmental justice for her commitment to a cleaner and safer environment for future generations; and*

*WHEREAS, Hazel and her dedicated crews began constructing the Waterfront Tunnel on November 1, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, Hazel and team completed the tunnel on March 13, 2024; and*

*WHEREAS, Hazel paved the way for a brighter future for the Potomac River and its surrounding communities.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim that April 13, 2024, shall be celebrated as:*

***“HAZEL THE TUNNEL BORING MACHINE DAY”***

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*