

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria honors the countless women who have profoundly shaped our community's history, culture, and progress in recorded and unrecorded ways, from the founding of our city in 1749 to the present day; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the enduring spirit, leadership and resilience of women in all walks of life in the city who continue to break barriers in business, education and public service, fostering unity, equality and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion of a 1974 study on the status of women, the Alexandria City Council established the Commission for Women in order to eliminate gender discrimination and to encourage equal opportunity for women in all aspects of their lives. In 2018, the commission published the Status of Women report focusing on Economic Security and Vulnerability, Barriers to Opportunity, Healthcare, Leadership, and Safety; and in 2026 the commission will report on the progress of the status of women; and

**WHEREAS**, this Women's History Month, Alexandria celebrates many vital organizations in the city that are founded by women, including, but not limited to, St. Rose Institute (1861), American Physical Therapy Association (1921), The Twig, Junior Auxiliary of the Inova Alexandria Hospital (1933), the Campagna Center (1945), Friends of Guest House (1974), Women in Government Relations (1975), Rand Construction Corporation (1989), Alexandria Business Women Association (1998), Space of Her Own (2011), Together We Bake (2012), Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Memorial Fund (2014), Alexandria Women for Good (2022), and many others; and

**WHEREAS**, acknowledging women's history deepens our understanding of Alexandria's past, celebrates present accomplishments, and inspires future generations to pursue leadership and service; and

**WHEREAS**, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to advancing gender equity, economic opportunity, and representation for women and girls in Alexandria and beyond.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2026 as:

***"Women's History Month"***

*In the City of Alexandria and call upon all residents, organizations, educational institutions, and community partners to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies that honor the achievements of women and reaffirm our commitment to gender equity and opportunity for all.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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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