

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, as the center of Alexandria civic life, City Hall has evolved and been witness to 276 years of public gatherings and local governance; and

WHEREAS, City Hall was erected on the site designated for the market and city hall when Alexandria was founded in 1749; and

WHEREAS, its tall, steepled tower is a reconstruction of a tower attributed to Benjamin H. Latrobe that was part of Alexandria's original 1817 town hall; and

WHEREAS, the Federal-style tower contrasts with the building's Second Empire-style addition designed by Adolph Cluss, a locally prominent architect, that brought new life to City Hall after a fire in 1871; and

WHEREAS, the buildings over time housed the original Alexandria Museum, Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge, Court House, city market, and police and fire stations; and

WHEREAS, as we honor the 250th of the nation, in 1774 the Fairfax County Resolves were issued from the Court House, the precursors to what ultimately became the Declaration of Independence, and in 1791, the site of the first boundary stone for the District of Columbia was determined by measuring a line beginning from the steps of this Court House; and

WHEREAS, the buildings welcomed the Marquis de Lafayette when he visited the Lodge in 1824, and saw black teenager Joseph McCoy dragged from his jail cell and lynched in 1897; and

WHEREAS, by referendum in 1921, an overwhelming majority of Alexandria voters approved the adoption of the council-manager form of city government, going into effect in September 1922, which centralized legislative authority and responsibility in the elected City Council; and

WHEREAS, while the precursor to City Council had been meeting here since 1749, City Council called the chamber home in its present configuration by 1961; and

WHEREAS, many firsts in governance occurred here including Patsy Ticer as the first woman mayor, William Euille as the first black mayor, and most recently the first black woman mayor Alyia Gaskins; and

WHEREAS, the people of Alexandria have elected a Council over the years that reflects the full diversity of our city, from ages to backgrounds, including Canek Aguirre as Alexandria's first elected Hispanic member, Mohamed "Mo" Seifeldein as the first elected Muslim member, and Paul Smedberg as first openly gay member of the LGBTQ+ community to serve; and

WHEREAS, many important laws were voted on in the chamber to improve the quality of life of all Alexandrians; and

WHEREAS, after many years of service, major updates are needed throughout City Hall to repair aging building components, improve operating systems, optimize space utilization, improve building circulation and wayfinding, enhance security, and facilitate community engagement. As a result, new Chambers will be created for the purpose of conducting city business.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do recognize this important space and memorialize the occasion, today, December 13, 2025, as:

"A DAY TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF THE ALEXANDRIA CITY HALL AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS"
in Alexandria, Virginia 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 13th day of December 2025.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk