

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the local, national and international contributions of women in history deserve recognition and celebration; and

WHEREAS, all people benefit from the profound and undeniable impact of the Women's Rights Movement, and women continue to make profound contributions to the growth and strength of our City; and

WHEREAS, the involvement of women in the economic, social, and political spheres have enriched our community and country; and

WHEREAS, women have inspired and improved this City through leadership and innovation to shape the next generation of female pioneers; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers, approximately 70% who are women, are the backbone of the U.S. care system. They help parents, spouses, and other loved ones live and age independently in their homes, providing about \$600 billion annually in unpaid labor; 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; and

WHEREAS, this Women's History Month, the Alexandria Commission for Women celebrates many vital community organizations, including, but not limited to the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services' Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program, Carpenter's Shelter, Alexandria Celebrates Women, Whole Woman's Health of Alexandria, Friends of Guest House, Alexandria Small Business Development Center, Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Fund, Virginias for Reproductive Freedom, Virginia Reproductive Equity Alliance and many others that have supported and improved this City through advocacy, resources, and programming to support and shape the lives of women and families of Alexandria, including but not limited to: advocating for Reproductive freedom locally and across the state, supporting the 2018 Alexandria Commission for Women Status of Women Report, and providing direct services and supportive resources to improve the lives and health outcomes of women and gender expansive people in Alexandria and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Alyia Gaskins, has achieved a significant milestone as the first Black Woman to serve in the capacity of Mayor of the City of Alexandria in the history of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women seeks to be an advocate for all women throughout the city by championing issues that disproportionately impact women and marginalized communities; in 2025 the Commission is committed to educating the public and advancing policy solutions related to survivor support, affordable housing, transportation, and reproductive freedom. The Commission is committed to highlighting the impact of and needs of all women in the City of Alexandria.

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 as:

“WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to expand women leadership and involvement, and do commend all citizens to commemorate this month in gratitude for those women who have contributed to the life of the City and the nation where all have, by right, a position of equality, fairness, justice and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 25th day of March 2025.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk