

PROCLAMATION

***WHEREAS**, in the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability and only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing; and*

***WHEREAS**, Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly-trained service dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships; and*

***WHEREAS**, Canine Companions and their service dogs empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence, by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow up services and a deeply committed community of support; and*

***WHEREAS**, National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them;*

***WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their service dogs, are embraced and we believe in the transformative power of the human-canine bond and inclusivity of all citizens.*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Justin M. Wilson, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council do hereby proclaim September to be:*

NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

in recognition of service dogs and the adults and children with disabilities in our community and encourage all citizens to celebrate task trained service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12th day of September 2023.*

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk