

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that continues to be a call to action for the City of Alexandria to meet its obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights upholds the basic principles of liberty and freedom enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, December 10, 2023, marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Day theme for 2023 is “Freedom, Equality and Justice for All,” in recognition of the fundamental values and rights enshrined in the declaration; and

WHEREAS, this year the City of Alexandria celebrates the 48th anniversary of the passage of its Human Rights Ordinance and the creation of the Human Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has been a leader in promoting and encouraging respect for the human rights for all, without distinction as to race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or transgender status; and

WHEREAS, events in the Middle East have led to an increase in hateful and violent Islamophobic and anti-Semitic rhetoric and incidents across the country; and

WHEREAS, efforts around the country to deny the fundamental rights of members of the LGBTQI+ community to erode hard won progress toward equality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes that inequality, bigotry, and intolerance not only hurt the ones who endure it, but also all of us as a civil society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria affirms that each and every resident and visitor should feel welcome and safe in our community; and

WHEREAS, few municipalities in the United States have as many residents hailing from all corners of the globe, the City of Alexandria celebrates our diversity as one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria remains committed to advancing the promise of equality, freedom and justice for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize December 2023 as:

“Human Rights Month”

In the City of Alexandria, I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this twelfth day of December 2023.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk