

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson of Virginia founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), the organization which originated the annual observance now celebrated throughout the month of February as National Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria observes and hosts a series of events to honor Black History Month this year following ASALH's 2024 theme "African Americans and the Arts;" and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month the Alexandria Black History Museum (ABHM) with the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Alexandria Library draw on the richness of their resources and collections to collaborate with and cooperate with various city agencies in highlighting and interpreting the rich history and achievements of African Americans in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the ABHM and the Alexandria Library continue to document, preserve and disseminate African American history through exhibitions and programs, which include performances, film screenings, storytelling, and lectures; and

WHEREAS, the ABHM continues its annual collaboration with the Alexandria City Public Schools to exhibit posters in the Vola Lawson Lobby of Alexandria City Hall in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this year emphasizing the theme of "Living the Dream;" and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Health Department supports the health and well-being of all its Black residents, recognizing that Black Alexandrians have higher rates of preventable hospitalizations and chronic illnesses compared to the general population as a result of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Health Department engages communities impacted by health and historical power disparities, including the city's Black and African American communities, in program, policy, and systems change planning and implementation to address the disproportionate impact of preventable and chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, The City of Alexandria, with support from the Office of Historic Alexandria, the Alexandria Library, the Office of Human Rights, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sherriff's Department, Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and the Alexandria City Public Schools, are dedicated to supporting the City's Alexandria Community Remembrance Project and ALL Alexandria Equity Initiative, which includes a commitment to educate the public about Alexandria's lynching history and to promote racial equity throughout the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council and the citizens of Alexandria, do proclaim the month of February, 2024, as:

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in Alexandria, Virginia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 23rd day of January, 2024.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk