RESOLUTION NO. 3350

RESOLUTION

TO ADOPT THE ALX FORWARD

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria last undertook a coordinated economic development planning initiative through the Economic Sustainability Summit in 2007, which produced recommendations to improve tourism, real estate development, transit, business recruitment, and organizational functions within the City's economic development network;

WHEREAS, the 2007 Summit recommendations have since been successfully implemented;

WHEREAS, significant economic and demographic changes have occurred in the City since 2007, and the City Council desires to ensure Alexandria's continued competitiveness in a rapidly evolving regional and national economy;

WHEREAS, in 2025, the City Council adopted four strategic priorities to guide their budget and policy decisions: (i) advance housing opportunities, (ii) reduce community disparities, (iii) drive economic strength, and (iv) attract and retain top talent;

WHEREAS, in order to advance the third priority to "drive economic strength," the City undertook a yearlong engagement effort, which culminated in the May 8, 2025 Economic Summit, at which more than 200 business leaders, policymakers, residents, and stakeholders discussed the City's economic future;

WHEREAS, following the 2025 Economic Summit, City staff, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP), and consultants prepared "ALX Forward: A Strategic Framework for Economic Growth" (Framework) integrating community feedback with quantitative data analysis;

WHEREAS, the Framework establishes a vision for Alexandria as "a resilient, competitive, future-ready city where innovation thrives, opportunity is accessible to all, and economic growth enhances quality of life" and is grounded in the guiding principles of equity, resilience, authenticity, and accountability;

WHEREAS, the Framework identifies three primary goal areas: (i) Place-Based Development, (ii) Business Retention and Recruitment, and (iii) Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which are supported by strategies, actions, and short-term high-impact "Catalytic Initiatives" designed to attract investment, diversify the tax base, and strengthen economic resilience;

WHEREAS, the Framework also includes a revised decision matrix to guide the use of economic development incentives in a manner that is transparent, consistent, and aligned with City policy goals;

WHEREAS, the Framework is intended to serve as a guiding policy document, informing the City's economic development priorities, resource allocation, and work programs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that adoption of the Framework promotes the general welfare of Alexandrians and is consistent with the City's strategic priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. That the ALX Forward Strategic Economic Framework, as presented to the City Council today, is hereby adopted as a policy of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.
2. That the City Manager is authorized and directed to implement the Framework in coordination with AEDP and relevant City departments and community partners, and to integrate its goals, strategies, actions, and initiatives into departmental work programs and budget development.
3. That the City Manager shall report periodically to the City Council on progress toward achieving the Framework's goals, strategies, actions, and initiatives, as may be directed by the City Council.
4. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS MAYOR

ATTEST:

GLORIA SITTON, CMC CITY CLERK

Adopted: January 13, 2026