

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program was signed into law fifty years ago and the City of Alexandria has participated in the CDBG Program since its inception in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Housing has used CDBG funding to support many housing and community development projects for the benefit of low- and moderate-income Alexandrians; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1970s the Office of Housing used CDBG funds to address blight along King Street and performed the City's first round of fair housing testing; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1980s the Office of Housing used CDBG funds to assist low-income homeowners in rehabilitating their homes, targeting those in the Potomac West and Strawberry Hill areas; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1990s the Office of Housing used CDBG funds for economic development, such as loans to support small businesses along Mt Vernon Avenue, later using CDBG to furnish microloans to a variety of businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2000s the Office of Housing used CDBG funds to create the Rental Accessibility Modification Program to assist renters with disabilities remain affordably in their leased homes; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2010s, despite federal budget cuts to the CDBG program, the Office of Housing continued to provided home rehabilitation to income-qualified owners and down payment and closing cost assistance to help low- and moderate-income Alexandrians become first time purchasers in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 the City used more than \$5 million in emergency CDBG relief funds to provide rental assistance to low-income renters across the city during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, developing a low barrier application process that became a national model; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Housing continues to use CDBG funds for activities such as rehabilitating single- and multi-unit buildings, providing winter shelter for unhoused people, modifying rental units to make them more accessible to tenants, providing security deposits and first month's rent for households transitioning into stable housing, and for annual fair housing testing; and

**WHEREAS**, CDBG has been, and will continue to be, an important source of funding for programs that benefit low- and moderate-income residents of Alexandria, and generates positive economic activity to elevates the whole community, as captured in the 2017 video produced by the Office of Housing and available on YouTube.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby designate April 1-5, 2024, as:

**“NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK”**

in the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2024.

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**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**

On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC    City Clerk

