

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

WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, polio was one of the most feared diseases in industrialized societies, paralyzing hundreds of thousands of children every year and is emerging in 2022 as an imminent threat to adults and children who are unvaccinated or not up to date with their polio immunizations; and

WHEREAS, a Rockland County, New York resident has been diagnosed with polio, the first case recorded in the United States in almost a decade; and

WHEREAS, polioviral samples have been found in the wastewater of Orange County, Sullivan County, and New York City, New York; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has now met the World Health Organization's criteria to be added to the list of countries (which includes the United Kingdom, Israel, Egypt, Yemen and almost two dozen countries in Africa) with circulating vaccine derived poliovirus; and

WHEREAS, clinical providers in the city of Alexandria, including the Alexandria Health Department, work tirelessly to ensure individuals receive the polio vaccination according to the recommended immunization schedule to prevent polio in our community; and

WHEREAS, if we do not completely eradicate this highly infectious disease by promoting and ensuring vaccination of all children in every country, there is the distinct possibility that polio will reappear in industrialized societies in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was begun by Rotary International and the World Health Organization in 1988 and today is a public-private partnership led by national governments with five core partners, the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, on World Polio Day, thousands of Rotary clubs around the world hold events to commemorate the birth of Dr. Jonas Salk who developed the first vaccine for poliomyelitis and to recognize the progress of the millions of dedicated volunteers who are continuing to fight to end polio; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Alexandria Central is proud to join Rotary Clubs around the world in celebrating this auspicious day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize October 24th, 2023, as:

“WORLD POLIO DAY”

in the City of Alexandria and 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 24th day of October 2023.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk