## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is committed to working toward a world where we are all embraced for who we are and able to thrive to reach our highest potential, removing barriers to full participation and belonging in life and culture; and

WHEREAS, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, observed annually in the United States during the month of October, aligns with the City of Alexandria's commitment to equity by serving as a crucial reminder of the importance of empowering individuals with disabilities, from all racial and social backgrounds, to participate fully in all aspects of our society, including the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the core purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate our community about disability employment issues and to celebrate the diverse contributions of Alexandrian workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, workplaces that embrace the talents of all individuals, including those with disabilities, form an essential foundation of our ongoing efforts to forge an inclusive community and foster a healthy economy; and

WHEREAS, the activities scheduled for this month will reiterate the immeasurable value and unique talents that people with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities, reaffirming the City of Alexandria's resolute commitment to an inclusive community that amplifies access and opportunities for all, including individuals with disabilities.

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

## "NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, and encourage all residents, employers, and organizations within our city to participate in activities and programs that promote and celebrate the significant contributions of individuals with disabilities, regardless of their racial, ethnic, or social backgrounds, to our local workforce and community.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

|         | MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON On behalf of the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia |                |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 1       | ATTEST:  |                |
| _<br>Gi | oria A. Sitton, CMC  | <br>City Clerk |