

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

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Library Local History/Special Collections branch has a national reputation concerning documentation of Virginia History; and

WHEREAS, researchers use this collection particularly when studying genealogy and early American history; and

WHEREAS, the Library has successfully collected documents that tell the story of the white citizens of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Library held its first Black Family Reunion on April 29, 2023 and digitized over 2300 photographs and 900 documents preserving the history of Black Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Library still seeks to improve its collection as it relates to the history of its African American citizenry in order to reflect the many prominent and successful citizens that came from Alexandria's Black neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The Fort, Seminary, The Hump, Cross Canal, The Berg, Fishtown, The Hill, Hayti, The Bottoms/The Dip, Uptown-Parker-Gray, Vinegar Hill and Black Rosemont, were African American neighborhoods whose citizens contributed to the successful creation and growth of Alexandria; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Library envisions the Black Family Reunion as a way to build community; to acknowledge the African American experience in Alexandria; and to ensure that the Black community is recognized and included in the history of Alexandria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on September 14, 2024, the Library will host its second Black Family Reunion to encourage the African American community to share photographs and other memorabilia for digitization to record this history for posterity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and proclaim September 14, 2024 as:

“ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY BLACK FAMILY REUNION DAY”

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, Virginia to be affixed this 10th day of September 2024.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk