

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

***WHEREAS**, beginning in September of 2008, Suicide Prevention became a nationally recognized awareness month. During this month, those affected by suicide or suicide ideation, whether individuals or organizations, unite to promote suicide prevention through resources, stories, and action-based events; and*

***WHEREAS**, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in United States, with men dying by suicide 3.8 times more than women; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 2023, over 49,000 Americans died by suicide, and 1.5 million people attempted suicide; and*

***WHEREAS**, the suicide rate for veterans is 50 percent higher than anyone else, while also being the leading cause for maternal death; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Alexandria community stands in full support of the Virginia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Services and their efforts to continue to train, teach, and combat suicidal ideation and incidents; and*

***WHEREAS**, help and support are available 24/7 across the United States for free through the 988 Lifeline at 988lifeline.org or texting 741741.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize the month of September 2025 as:*

“SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and call upon all residents to join in this observance.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of September 2025.*

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk