

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

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson of Virginia founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), the organization which originated the annual observance of Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, this observance has continued and is now celebrated throughout the month of February as National Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria observes and recognizes the historic precedence of and for this Month of observance; and

WHEREAS, to that end, the City is hosting a series of events to honor Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, ASALH's theme for Black History Month this year is 2022: **Black Health and Wellness**; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Health Department supports the health and well-being of all its Black residents, recognizing that Black Alexandrians have a 25 percent higher rate of lung and bronchus cancer compared to the general population; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Health Department has launched a Tobacco-Free Living pilot program to help residents quit tobacco. The pilot uses one-on-one coaching, connections to resources, and small group sessions to empower residents – particularly our communities of color – to live without tobacco; and

WHEREAS, to address the disproportionate impact of HIV in Black communities and the broad-ranging challenges this poses, the Alexandria Health Department is hosting a virtual symposium to celebrate and highlight [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#) on Monday, February 7; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month the Alexandria Black History Museum (ABHM) with the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Alexandria Library draw on the richness of their resources and collections to collaborate with and cooperate with various city agencies in highlighting and interpreting the rich history and achievements of African Americans in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Historic Alexandria and the Alexandria Library are dedicated to supporting the City's Alexandria Community Remembrance Project and ALL Alexandria Equity Initiative, which includes a commitment to educate the public about Alexandria's lynching history and to promote racial equity throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, ABHM collaborated with the Alexandria City Public School system on an exhibition of posters in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the theme of Creating a Hopeful World, which is on view online; and

WHEREAS, ABHM and the Alexandria Library continue to document, preserve and disseminate African American history through exhibitions and programs, which include performances, film screenings, storytelling, and lectures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council and the citizens of Alexandria, do proclaim the month of February, 2022, as:

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

in Alexandria, Virginia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of February, 2022.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk