

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

**WHEREAS**, an acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma that results in a change to the brain's neuronal activity, which affects the physical integrity, metabolic activity, or functional ability of nerve cells in the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury (TBI), a subset of all brain injury, is caused by trauma to the brain from an external force, that disrupts the brain's normal function and often results in a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), more than 3.5 million children and adults sustain an ABI, but the total incidence is unknown due to underreporting; and

**WHEREAS**, one in 60 Americans lives with TBI-related disabilities, and 137 die each day because of TBI-related injury; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, an estimated 389,621 Virginians live with disabilities caused by TBI and stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, of the approximately 28,000 individuals in Virginia each year who sustain brain injuries including concussions, more than 7,000 are hospitalized, largely due to falls, motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sporting-related injuries, or occupational injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has appropriated \$1.1 billion in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to examine “Long COVID”, as some COVID-19 survivors have significant, long-term complications and functional losses that must be studied, and sufferers of “Long COVID”, particularly those with pre-existing brain injury; and

**WHEREAS**, early, equal, and adequate access to care greatly increases the overall quality of life of Virginians with brain injuries, enabling them to return to home, school, work, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, many people with disabilities have their lives defined for them, BIAA has selected the theme “More Than My Brain Injury” for Brain Injury Awareness Month 2022, to give individuals a chance to overcome those definitions, to tell their own stories, and to change the narrative of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services works in partnership with state and local agencies, as well as a network of brain injury services programs including the Brain Injury Association of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities is committed to raising awareness in Alexandria of the importance of recognizing brain injury, treating it appropriately and supporting the injured.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as:

## **“BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

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**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**

*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

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*Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk*