

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, October 16th is the dedicated day for “World Food Day” in observance of the commemoration of the founding date of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Alexandrians strive to mitigate the impact of food insecurity and hunger in our city while creating sustainable nutritious food resources for our citizens as we are reminded that globally: 828 million people are unsure of when they will next eat, 50 million people are on the brink of starvation, and that 1 in 2 children lack the nutrients to grow & thrive; and

WHEREAS, While working extensively with the community, the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria have coordinated the Community Health Improvement Plan 2025 (CHIP), a collection of action-oriented strategies and tactics to address all inequities, including food insecurity, through programs, advocacy, services, education, and policy change; and

WHEREAS, Hunger Free Alexandria (HFA) is a community-based coalition of food providers, faith-based communities, schools, social service organizations, and advocates for ending hunger with the mission to coordinate community efforts to raise awareness of food insecurity and to increase access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food in the City of Alexandria; and our local schools recognized and celebrated October 10th-14th as “National School Lunch Week” and “Virginia’s Farm to Schools Week,” which brings awareness for stronger child nutrition policies to be enacted for our children, youth, and families in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, 2022 marks the 53rd anniversary of ALIVE!, the oldest and largest private safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty and with food insecurity; and since its inception ALIVE! has remained dedicated to alleviating the suffering of our neighbors living in poverty and with hunger; and

WHEREAS, ALIVE!, an interfaith governed organization representing 50 congregations in the city of Alexandria is currently providing food to almost 5,000 households monthly (the same peak levels seen during the pandemic) and providing staples like detergent, cleaning supplies and hygiene items through its pantry network and at the ALIVE! Food hub; and

WHEREAS, our region continues to advocate for and support the need for food and agricultural education, urban farming, and nutritious food resources through the founding of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Committee that became a stand-alone committee in 2021 to better create opportunity for agricultural prospects and awareness in the need to mitigate hunger; and

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 acknowledge:

“WORLD FOOD DAY IN ALEXANDRIA”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, in recognition of the importance of public and private efforts within our community to ensure that every Alexandrian has access to safe and nutritious meals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 25th Day of October, 2022.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk