

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the local, national and international contributions of women in history deserve recognition and celebration; and as Alexandria's first landowner was Margaret Brent, who represented herself in court and petitioned for the right to vote in Maryland as early as 1648. One of Alexandria's early business owners was Mary Hawkins who operated a tavern during the early years of the American Republic. Alexandria's emphasis on Historic Preservation was led by women such as Rebecca Ramsay Reese and continued to preserve such sites pertinent to African American History such as the Freedom House Museum and the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery by such women as Annie B. Rose, Lillie Finklea, and Louise Massoud; and

WHEREAS, all people benefit from the profound and undeniable impact of the Women's Rights Movement, and women continue to make profound contributions to the growth and strength of our City; and 32 women Suffragists imprisoned at Occoquan Workhouse for demanding the right to vote were ordered released in 1917 by the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women seeks to be an advocate for all women throughout the city by championing issues that disproportionately impact women, in 2023 the Commission is committed to educating the public and advancing policy solutions related to domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, affordable housing, transportation, and reproductive healthcare rights. The Commission is committed to highlighting the impact of and needs of all women in the city.

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

“WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to expand the leadership and involvement of women in the economic, social, and political spheres of our community and country, and do commend all citizens to commemorate this month in gratitude for those women who have contributed to the life of the City and the nation where all have, by right, a position of equality, fairness, justice, and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of March, 2023.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk