

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria's foremost citizen George Washington once said, "Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness;" and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of this City have acted upon this principle to create and support a system of library and information services through the Alexandria Library, Library Media Centers of the Alexandria City Public Schools, a number of special libraries, as well as libraries in private and parochial schools, and institutions of higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, these libraries serve as the gateway to information and technology that support the preservation of our democratic traditions and cultural heritage; and libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries of today function as much more than repositories of knowledge, helping residents keep up with changing technology, offering audiobooks, e-reader materials, free computer classes, hotspots and laptops, community meeting spaces, and access to free online resources; and the Alexandria public library offers English Language Learning classes, citizenship classes, story hours, crafting classes, author talks, and numerous other programs while serving as a Passport Agency for those needing to travel, and partnering with other city departments and agencies to provide programs and access to resources such as COVID test kits, electricity usage monitors, and Safe Place access; and

**WHEREAS**, library media specialists and school librarians, are dedicated to helping our children and teens find the resources they need to keep learning, thereby safeguarding and preserving intellectual freedoms that ensure an inclusive environment where young minds can create, explore, and connect every day of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries, library workers, and library supporters across the United States will celebrate National Library Workers Day sponsored by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

**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 proclaim the week of April 23 through April 29, 2023 as:

### **“NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK”**

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens. This year's theme is **“There's More to the Story”** and I encourage all residents to support the library's mission to be a bastion of intellectual freedom where all views are represented, and everyone is welcomed. I also encourage all residents to take advantage of the resources and programs available to help them live, learn and grow.

**FURTHER, THIS CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the dedicated staff of the Alexandria Library, and urges residents to reach out via the library's website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other social media platforms to thank library workers for the essential services they provide.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

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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

