

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *Child Care Aware® of America and other organizations nationwide are recognizing Child Care Providers on this day; and*

WHEREAS, *child care provides a safe, nurturing place for the enrichment and development of millions of children nationwide, and is a vital force in our economy; and*

WHEREAS, *the pandemic illuminated how indispensable child care providers are for the well-being and economic security of Virginia’s young children, families, and communities; and*

WHEREAS, *Virginia recognizes that child care has been a lifeline for families, communities, and the economy and as such, has provided much-needed support to providers to help sustain the viability of child care; and*

WHEREAS, *the 106 family child care homes and 92 center based child care programs in Alexandria, which are mostly small businesses, run and staffed predominantly by women, are still recovering from health and financial hardships stemming from the pandemic while they have continued to meet the needs of families; and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Alexandria has supported the work of the Emergency Child Care Collaborative by making available \$3,630,000 in CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act funding to support workforce stabilization efforts that allow child care providers to continue to keep their doors open for the 8,998 young children and their families can continue to work; and*

WHEREAS, *our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; support for high-quality child care represents a worthy commitment to our children’s future.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, hereby proclaim May 12, 2023, as:

“PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens, and I urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Providers for their important work.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of May, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk