

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

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is an annual celebration of Jewish Americans who have helped weave the fabric of American history, culture, and society; and

WHEREAS, 2023 marks the 43rd annual celebration of achievements and contributions by Jewish Americans, starting with the establishment of Jewish American Heritage Week in 1980, and expanded upon it in 2006, when Congress called on the country to observe annual Jewish American Heritage Month each May; and

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month acknowledges achievements of American Jews and recognizes their indispensable roles in our nation's civic and community life, making invaluable contributions to our nation through their leadership and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria's first congregation, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, was founded in 1859; its second, Agudas Achim, was founded in 1914. Alexandria's first Jewish American Mayor Leroy Bendheim, served our city in that capacity from 1955-1961; and

WHEREAS, our City recognizes that the alarming rise in antisemitism and hatred is a threat not only to the Jewish people but to all of us, and that we must foster the conditions that allow our communities to be safe, healthy, and vital; and

WHEREAS, we offer hope and optimism through the celebration of the vibrant heritage of the Jewish Americans who have enriched our country and our communities for hundreds of years by bringing Jewish American Heritage Month to our cities; starting in significant numbers in the 1850s and continuing to do so today; and

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month pays tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who have helped form the fabric of American History.

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 May 2023 as:

“JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”

in the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 23rd day of May, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk