

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria has a longstanding, demonstrated commitment to children, youth, and families, as articulated in the Children and Youth Community Plan vision statement, “All of Alexandria’s children and youth succeeding today and tomorrow;” and

**WHEREAS**, youth alcohol use presents significant health, legal, and social consequences and can hinder personal, professional, and academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, all youth deserve to grow up happy, healthy, and substance-free; and

**WHEREAS**, communities across the country celebrate Alcohol Awareness Month each April to increase public awareness of the consequences associated with youth alcohol use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria and its partners are committed to preventing youth alcohol use and promoting positive opportunities for Alexandria’s youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition’s work contributes to achieving Goal 1: All Children, Youth and families will be Physically Safe and Healthy, in the Children and Youth Community Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, teen use of alcohol in Alexandria among 8<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased 50% between 2013 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, teen use of alcohol in Alexandria among 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students decreased 18% between 2013 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, most youth in Alexandria report not using alcohol, a trend to get behind; and

**WHEREAS**, even small amounts of alcohol impact judgement, coordination, and decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, excessive alcohol use is associated with adverse outcomes, including unintentional injuries, violence, and alcohol poisoning; and

**WHEREAS**, it takes a community to teach prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, as a community, we resolve to educate, inform, and empower Alexandria youth to make informed choices about their health and future so they have the knowledge and tools to thrive today, tomorrow and in the years to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize the month of April 2024 as:

## **“ALCOHOL AWARENESS 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

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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