

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, March 11, 2014 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alexandria Transit Company's (ATC) and the initiation of the City's DASH bus system; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Charles "Chuck" Beatley was the champion and father of DASH and had a vision over 30 years ago of a bus system that would serve the local transit needs of the community and provide high quality transit service to the residents, workers, and visitors of the City of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, ATC Chairman of 22 years Mr. William "Bill" B. Hurd shared the Mayor's vision and helped to create the organization that became so successful under his leadership and who fostered a back-to-basics approach of operating safe and reliable service with clean buses and friendly, courteous drivers; and

**WHEREAS**, total ridership over the past 30 years has increased by over 360%, with a total annual ridership of over four million, an average of 14,500 passengers riding DASH every weekday and 12,000 passengers riding on the weekends, and expanded service from 582,000 miles in the first full year of service to over 1.6 million miles today; and

**WHEREAS**, DASH contributes to the quality of life and preserving the livability of Alexandria by mitigating traffic impacts, improving circulation and mobility throughout the City, and providing easier access to local businesses, retail and employment centers, residential developments, and to the regional Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail systems; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past four years, DASH has purchased environmentally friendly and low-floor hybrid electric buses and trolleys, which have provided great benefits including reduced air pollutant emissions, reduced fuel consumption, increased transmission and brake life, and reduced engine noise, while improving accessibility and providing a smoother ride overall; and

**WHEREAS**, DASH has significantly improved the quality and reliability of the King Street Trolley since taking it over in 2012 with new environmentally friendly hybrid-electric low floor trolleys, resulting in a ridership increase of over 50%; and

**WHEREAS**, transit, notably DASH, plays a key role within the implementation of the City Council's adopted City Transportation Master Plan and contributes to the City's Eco-City efforts by providing an environmentally friendly alternative to the single occupant vehicle, and DASH has built a LEED Certified Gold operating and maintenance facility that provides opportunities for significant service expansion and improvements to meet the growing transportation needs of the Alexandria community, which will make transit even more accessible, convenient, and attractive in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, ATC is recognized nationally and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia for the high quality service it provides and has won many outstanding achievement awards over the years, including the American Public Transportation Association System Safety Awards, Outstanding Achievement and Marketing Awards for innovative and creative marketing, the Governor's Transportation Safety Award, the Virginia Transit Association Outstanding Public Transportation System Awards, Innovative Program and Marketing Awards, has been recognized four years in a row by the Alexandria community as one of the top five City services, and Metro Magazine named DASH one of the "10 Great Transit Systems to Work For."

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize the:

### **"ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY"**

And the entire DASH bus system, employees, and Board of Directors for their efforts and contributions to the Alexandria community to improve mobility and accessibility throughout the City in providing the highest quality of transit service to Alexandria residents, workers, and visitors, and in helping to make Alexandria a truly Livable, Green, and Prospering City.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

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**WILLIAM D. EUILLE** MAYOR  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk