

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM ALEXANDRIA'S COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE ITS
CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON COMBINED SEWER OUTFALLS BY 2027.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria operates a Combined Sewer System under a permit issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, the City residents have over the decades invested hundreds of millions of dollars in well maintained sewage collection, state-of-the-art Waste Water Treatment systems and infrastructure, and sewer separation projects; and

WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of the City of Alexandria, including most of Old Town, does not have combined sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, five percent of the City of Alexandria's sanitary sewer system predates modern sewer systems, and has combined sewers that carry sewer discharges and stormwater in the same pipes; and

WHEREAS, combined sewer systems were considered state-of-the-art when they were installed in the Old Town area of the City and many other cities in the Nineteenth Century; and

WHEREAS, such systems negatively impact waterways, since they cause untreated human waste to be discharged into rivers and streams during heavy rains, when the volume of stormwater and wastewater in these combined sewers is too great to be treated at wastewater treatment plants and portions of the stormwater and wastewater are discharged directly into our rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, about 540 acres of Old Town still have combined sewers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is committed to taking, with deliberate speed, all necessary corrective actions for its combined sewer outfalls as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, the City's proposed Capital Improvement Program includes nearly \$400 million in funding that the City estimates will be needed to complete the corrective work by 2027; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that its sanitary sewer fee will need to be increased by at least 30 percent in FY 2018, and up to 500 percent by FY 2027 to pay for this corrective work; and

WHEREAS, two engineering experts with significant professional experience working with combined sewer systems have indicated that the earliest construction could be completed is 2027; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Alexandria pledges its commitment to move as quickly as prudent and feasible and complete work on combined sewer outfalls 001, 002, 003, and 004 by July 1, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Alexandria directs the City Manager to take all necessary administrative actions to ensure that the planning, permitting, designing, engineering, and construction work to mitigate the combined sewer outfalls is properly organized and resourced in a timely manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Alexandria directs the City Manager to work with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to have any future plans for City CSO work approved as quickly as possible so that this work can be completed on a timely basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby thanks Governor Terry McAuliffe for proposing amendments to 2017 combined sewer legislation that would have given Alexandria the time necessary—and no more—to take corrective action on these outfalls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Alexandria looks forward to working in the future with the Department of Environmental Quality on this significant environmental remediation effort.

Adopted: _____

Allison Silberberg, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC
City Clerk and Clerk of Council