

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, in June 2011, in the spirit of regional cooperation to promote housing affordability and expand access and understanding of housing resources, the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, the town of Herndon and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, in partnership with the Virginia Housing Development Authority, worked collaboratively to plan and to hold the first Northern Virginia Housing Expo at T.C. Williams High School, in Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, this regional effort resulted from an idea proposed and led by the City of Alexandria pursuant to goals being developed through its then-ongoing Housing Master Plan process that emphasized housing affordability as a regional issue, which negatively impacts Northern Virginia's future economic vitality, growth and competitiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Expo, as proposed, replaced the City's annual homeownership fair and expanded the scope of information, training and resources offered to include rental housing affordability, home rehabilitation, condominium governance, energy efficiency, financial literacy and social services; and

**WHEREAS**, all participating jurisdictions have subsequently taken turns hosting the event, which attracts more than 1,000 households each year, generating efficiency savings for all participating jurisdictions, as well as the vendors and presenters that support the Expo; and

**WHEREAS**, the merits of housing affordability are many, including providing stability for families and creating diverse vibrant communities that support people at all ages and all stages of life – from the young family or graduate just starting their career, to the retired couple on a fixed income and everyone in between; and

**WHEREAS**, developing all types and price points of housing within our communities facilitates shorter commutes and decreases traffic congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, employers enjoy greater success recruiting and retaining employees when housing opportunities are affordable and located near employment centers, allowing people to live in the community where they work and achieve a greater quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, an increasing percentage of our workforce needs housing that is affordable, including public sector employees, entry-level workers in the retail, hospitality and financial services sectors, hospital and health care workers, day care providers, and others who are essential to the health and vitality of our regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, March 24, 2018, affordable housing providers from throughout the Northern Virginia region will gather at George Washington Middle School to help the Alexandria community and its neighbors learn more about available housing resources and promote programs that support housing affordability in the region.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim Saturday, March 24 as:

### **NORTHERN VIRGINIA HOUSING EXPO DAY**

And recognize the important role housing affordability plays in preserving our community's economic diversity, and celebrate the City's success in forging regional collaboration to achieve mutual housing policy goals.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

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**MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

**ATTEST:**

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC    City Clerk