

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Academy of American poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996 to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States by highlighting the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievements of American poets, introducing Americans to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, bringing poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and making poetry an important part of our children's education; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the Alexandria City Council voted Jean Elliott, as the City's first Poet Laureate of record, who served until 1999; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Alexandria Poet Laureate program was reestablished by the City of Alexandria to confirm the value of the literary art and enhance the quality of life in Alexandria; and,

WHEREAS, past Poet Laureates Mary McElveen, Amy Young, Tori Lane Kovarik, and Ryan Wojanowski have served the City since 2007; and

WHEREAS, Wendi R. Kaplan was appointed to serve as Poet Laureate in 2016, and during her tenure, she wrote original poems for numerous City events including the Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration; Earth Day Celebration; and the American Arabesque: A Celebration of Culture, Wendi Kaplan's outreach activities included her work with Alexandria City Public Schools and the Alexandria City Public Library; Wendi also wrote articles in the Alexandria Gazette Packet to bring the awareness and appreciation of poetry to its readers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is honored to welcome KaNikki Jakarta Mix as the City's new Poet Laureate to serve until 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby declare April, 2019, as:

“NATIONAL POETRY MONTH”

And acknowledge with sincere appreciation, the contributions of Wendi R. Kaplan and thank her on behalf of the citizens of Alexandria for promoting poetry and the literary arts in our City, and encouraging the greater participation of the children, and welcome KaNikki Jakarta Mix as the City's new Poet Laureate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of April, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk