

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) was created as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia and established as an entity by the City of Alexandria on July 27, 1939 for the purpose of operating the Affordable Housing for low and moderate income persons in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of safe, decent, sanitary and affordable housing is important to the citizens of the City of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, ARHA's initial affordable housing project was 110 units of affordable housing built in the 1940's in Old Town on the site of what is now Hopkins-Tancil; and

**WHEREAS**, over the 80 years of its existence, ARHA has developed, redeveloped, and maintained more than 1000 public and affordable housing units; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1960s and 1970s, ARHA executed every urban renewal project created by the City of Alexandria, including the Gadsby Commercial Urban Renewal, one of the early urban renewal effort, that included the condemnation and demolition of blighted and dilapidated structures and the redevelopment of the King Street commercial area, including Market Square, Tavern Square and the areas bound by Fairfax Street and St. Asaph Street (Courthouse Square). Also, Mudtown, the area encompassing the original T.C. Williams High School, and the DIP which is the area south of Duke Street and between Columbus and Patrick Streets. The current Alfred Street Baptist Church is on land that was part of the DIP Urban Renewal Project; and

**WHEREAS**, more recent projects have been the award-winning Chatham Square (2005) and Old Town Commons (2011 – 2014), both of which are mixed income developments that replaced aging public housing projects, and ARHA is currently redeveloping the Ramsey Homes site.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim ARHA as a leader in the design, development, and management of public, affordable and mixed income housing, and congratulate them on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

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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