

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, *Melinda Douglas created the Office of the Public Defender for the City of Alexandria in July 1987, to provide legal representation to indigent clients in misdemeanor, felony and juvenile cases, and in doing so she had replaced a prior system of only court-appointed lawyers, thus insuring fairness; and*

WHEREAS, *in this office, Melinda Douglas, along with nine other attorneys and a supporting staff of 8, has for the past 32 years in our City handled a varied caseload, in addition to supervising a clinical education program for law students; and*

WHEREAS, *she is the first woman to be appointed chief defender of a public defender office in Virginia, and is the first woman – and first public defender – to receive the Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award from the Virginia State Bar; and*

WHEREAS, *Melinda Douglas has specialized in the practice of criminal and civil law for over three decades, for the betterment of our City and community, and has done so under the aegis of seven Bar admissions, ranging from the Commonwealths of Virginia and Massachusetts, to the District of Columbia, following the attainment of her Juris Doctor degree in 1981 from the Antioch School of Law, and did so in several board capacities, task forces, committees, and faculty appointments.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, *Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize that in this month of October 2019, her last month of service as Public Defender for the City of Alexandria, that:*

“MELINDA DOUGLAS”

Has nobly, dutifully and fairly served all in the City of Alexandria since the beginning of her employment in 1987, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 2nd day of October, 2019.*

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk