

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there are long-standing bodies of research correlating lack of health insurance and limited healthcare access, to poor health and premature death. These affects are oftentimes even more severely modified if an individual is afflicted with chronic health conditions and is low-income and/or uninsured; and

WHEREAS, for the past 2 decades, the annual County Health Rankings Surveys (a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute) have documented significant disparities in risk for premature death between blacks and whites in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Virginia General Assembly initially voted against expanding the Medicaid program as permitted under the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, thereby leaving more than 400,000 low-income individuals throughout the Commonwealth (approximately 5,500 in the City of Alexandria) without comprehensive health insurance; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, a group of concerned Alexandrians approached Mayor William D. Euille, urging him to defend the health care needs of the most vulnerable among the city's low-income uninsured residents. Shortly thereafter Mayor Euille appointed a Special Advisory Panel on the Health Care Needs of the Uninsured in Alexandria. The Panel issued its final report and recommendations to Mayor Euille in May of 2015, pledging to host a one-day Free Health Fair for the uninsured population of the City before the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 14, 2015, the First Alexandria Community Health Fair took place in Alexandria, and these similar fairs have occurred annually in the City since their creation; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Health recently announced that the Fifth annual Health Fair will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, and that ALIVE! will co-sponsor this year's fair, dedicating the event to Bill Euille, to call attention to his lauded efforts; and

WHEREAS, Council acknowledges and thanks the many Alexandria residents who volunteered their time and energy to serving on the planning committees for the first and/or second health fairs: namely: Canek Aguirre, Sharon Block, Marion Brunken, Jamie Conrad, Dan Hawkins (co-chair), Arlene Hewitt, Susan Keightley, John Klousia, Ann Langley, Richard Merritt (co-chair), McArthur Myers, Susan Nolan, Carol O'Shaughnessy, Ken Sharma, Roger Schwartz, Claudia Tellez, Eduardo Mantilla-Torres, Sissy Walker, and Mary Anne Weber; for making all four health fairs a meaningful experience for all attendees and for providing ongoing primary care to those who need a medical home.

Finally, Council calls on the City Manager and the Superintendent of Schools to encourage appropriate agencies and staff to collaborate with Neighborhood Health and ALIVE! in making the Fifth Free Health Fair for Alexandria's Uninsured the most well-staffed and the best attended Fair of all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and acknowledge:

"THE STAFF OF NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH, AND SELECT CITY RESIDENTS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR"

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 22nd day of October, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk