

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, July 15, 2020, marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the official founding of the Alexandria Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria community has continuously benefitted from local law enforcement protection through the service of constables, night watchmen and police officers beginning in the late 18th century; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the need for a professionally organized police force, City leaders formally authorized the establishment of the Alexandria Police Department on July 15, 1870; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Police Department's rich and proud heritage is an important part of the City's celebrated and well-known history; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 150 years, thousands of brave individuals have answered the call to serve as Alexandria Police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, one watchman, one constable and sixteen police officers have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the people of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Police Department has long been on the forefront of law enforcement advancement by establishing technical crime scene investigative capabilities in the late 1920s, interoperability radio communications in the 1940s, becoming in 1959 one of the first police departments in the region to have a Canine Team, improving community relations in the 1960s by establishing a community relations team, implementing computer and 911 capabilities in the 1970s and 1980s, and in 1986 becoming one of the first police departments in the country to earn national accreditation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Police Headquarters was established in 1870 within the City Hall, and in 1959 having moved to 400 North Pitt Street, and in 1987 having moved to 2003 Mill Road, and in 2011 having moved to an award-winning, highly efficient and green facility at 3600 Wheeler Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, past and present sworn, civilian and volunteer members of the Alexandria Police Department have created a lasting legacy of benevolence through the Alexandria Police Youth Camp and the Alexandria Police Association; and residents of Alexandria are thankful for the professional services of the Alexandria Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Police Department will be celebrating its distinguished history with special events and commemorations throughout this year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the year 2020 as the:

**“ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY”**

*In the City of Alexandria, and congratulate present and past members of the Alexandria Police Department on this significant occasion and encourage all our residents to recognize the importance of our police department's history by participating in upcoming special events.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

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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*