

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson of Virginia founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), the organization which originated the annual observance of Negro History Week. This observance has continued and is now celebrated throughout the month of February as National Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, ASALH's theme for Black History Month 2020 is African Americans and the Vote; and the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote; and the year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 15th Amendment granting African American men the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month the Alexandria Black History Museum (ABHM) and the Alexandria Library draw on the richness of their resources and collections to collaborate with and cooperate with various city agencies in highlighting and interpreting the rich history and achievements of African Americans in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, ABHM and the Alexandria Library are dedicated to supporting the City's Equal Justice Initiative, which includes a commitment to educate the public about Alexandria's lynching history and to promote racial equity throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, ABHM collaborated with the Alexandria City Public School system on an exhibition of posters in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the theme of And Justice for All, which is on view in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall through the end of February; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria invites the public to visit the City's 8th museum, the recently acquired Freedom House Museum; and

WHEREAS, ABHM and the Alexandria Library continue to document, preserve and disseminate African American history through exhibitions and programs, which include performances, film screenings, storytelling, and lectures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, and the citizens of Alexandria, do proclaim the month of February 2020, as:

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

In Alexandria, Virginia

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of February, 2020.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk