

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria recognizes its natural environment is irreplaceable and fragile and must be preserved for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day is a national event to increase people's understanding of their environment and mobilize support for its protection and was first celebrated 50 years ago, namely March 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Policy Commission was formed 51 years ago, namely January 1970, to advise the City Council on all matters environmental; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Alexandria as a Tree City USA every year since 1983 and by planting a tree every year on Alexandria Earth Day, the City demonstrates the importance of trees as the backbone of our urban habitat and its commitment to the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Earth Day Planning Committee, in partnership with the Alexandria City Public Schools, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, recognizes the need to maintain safe protocol during the COVID-19 pandemic and thus, sponsors the first virtual Alexandria Earth Day Celebration on the City's Earth Day website [www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay](http://www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay) during the month of April 2021.

**WHEREAS**, because of the generous support of Alexandria's business community, non-profit organizations, and our civic leaders' commitment to the values of environmental stewardship, Earth Day has become Alexandria's premier environmental celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria, in partnership with the Environmental Policy Commission and Virginia Tech Alexandria Campus, adopted in June 2008 the Eco-City Charter and, in June 2009, the Environmental Action Plan 2030 to lead the city toward sustainability; and in 2019 the updated 2040 Environmental Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria recognizes the important role and contribution which each Alexandria resident can do daily to make the City an Eco-City, so this year Alexandria adopts the National Earth Day theme, "Restore the Earth," for Alexandria Earth Day.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2021 as:

### **"ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY"**

*In the City of Alexandria and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards preserving our environment.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

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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