

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks highlighted a significant need for trained medical and public health personnel to assist with emergency operations, many medical and public health professionals sought to support emergency relief efforts and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), as a national network of locally organized volunteers to be ready to respond to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, established in 2005, the Alexandria MRC program, with over 1,500 registered members, seeks to improve the health and safety of communities across the City of Alexandria and to ensure that the City is equipped with sufficient professional and non-professional volunteers to support the existing public health infrastructure during both public health emergencies and routine community activities; and

WHEREAS, MRC volunteers have assisted the city since its establishment in Take Back Days, Immunization Clinic Support, First Aid Medical Operations, Alexandria Earth Fair Outreach, Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise Support, Zika Awareness Outreach, Emergency Preparedness Fair Outreach, District Epidemiologist Data Entry Support, Training and Orientation Support, Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Team Support, and Food Safety Flyer Distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria MRC was prepared and ready at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, to quickly mobilize its members, who selflessly helped others in their community, often putting themselves at potential health-risk, as they struggled through the challenges brought on by this pandemic by carrying out the crucial, and often behind the scenes work, of contact tracing, community outreach, providing mental health support, PPE distribution, distribution of coronavirus care kits, supply coordination, negative test result calls, data entry, specimen delivery, lab assistance, and administrative support; and

WHEREAS, dedicated MRC volunteers assisted with logistics and coordination of COVID-19 testing events, twice a week, for eight months, often in less than ideal weather conditions, in order to ensure community members, particularly those in our most vulnerable communities, could have access to free, accurate, and timely tests to help stop the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2020, MRC, in coordination with the Alexandria Health Department, began organizing the operations for vaccination PODS so that by December, 2020, when vaccines first became available, Alexandria was prepared for distribution, with volunteers to fill roles as vaccinators, vaccinator assistants, flow support, logistics support, registrars, inventory managers, and biosafety officers; and

WHEREAS, more than 500 Medical Reserve Corp volunteers dedicated over 50,000 hours supporting COVID-19 efforts, and though too numerous in number to mention in spoken word tonight, their names are inscribed herein.

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 honor on April 6, 2021, all the:

**“CITY OF ALEXANDRIA MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SINCE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALEXANDRIA MRC UNIT,
AND PARTICULARLY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”**

And I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens who are grateful for their support and selflessness in such a time of need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 6th day of April, 2021.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk