

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

WHEREAS, *Safe Space NOVA provides a safe, accepting, and supportive environment to combat social stigmas, bullying, and other challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youths; and*

WHEREAS, *Safe Space NOVA was established in 2016 when founder and executive director Jordan Costen-Sumpter developed the idea to create programming where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youths could have fun in a safe and accepting environment; and*

WHEREAS, *Safe Space NOVA addresses issues raised by organizations like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that show that LGBTQ+ youths are at an increased risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors, suicide attempts, and suicide; other motivating concerns were that LGBTQ+ youths were more likely to report high levels of bullying and substance abuse; and*

WHEREAS, *the goal of Safe Space NOVA is to protect young people from these perils by providing a positive environment and welcoming staff that embrace, uplift, and encourage them, as well as to ensure that 14 – to – 18 year olds in the Northern Virginia area have access to an organization and activities that promote equality; and*

WHEREAS, *to that end, Safe Space NOVA oversees a social support program and organizes holiday events, fun teen-friendly excursions, LGBTQ+ pride parade gatherings, and discussion groups now; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of June, 2021, as:

“PRIDE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, and I ask, that today, June first, be a day for all city residents to join others throughout the United States in raising awareness of the contributions and influence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning people have had around the world, and I call upon the people of Alexandria to recognize this special observance with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AND, IT IS WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED requests that this proclamation is presented to Safe Space NOVA, in appreciation of their concern and dedication to LGBTQ+ youth in Northern Virginia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 9th day of June, 2021.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk