

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, more than 3.2 million American children are victims of bullying each year; and

**WHEREAS**, 71% of American students report incidents of bullying as a problem at their school;  
and

**WHEREAS**, bullying continues to impact our nation's youth – about 1 in 4 children in the United States are bullied on a regular basis; and

**WHEREAS**, in Alexandria, according to the 2016 ACPS Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 12% of high school students (grades 10 and 12) reported being bullied on school property and 9% reported being bullied electronically; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2016 ACPS 24% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students reported being bullied on school property and 10% reported being bullied online; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse or bullying and as many as 1 in 5 senior citizens is the victim of verbal or physical abuse or bullying; and

**WHEREAS**, as civic leaders in the City of Alexandria, we can and shall use our resources to increase awareness of the negative effects and to prevent bullying among our youth, adults and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and Alexandria has again joined forces with over 200 other cities in United States Conference of Mayors through the Mayors' Campaign to End Bullying – “Bully Free Starts With Me” Program which creates ongoing city-wide bullying prevention initiatives to make schools, homes, assisted living facilities, day care centers and community gathering places a safe place for all youth, adults and seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, since its beginning in 2014, the local Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying committee members include city agencies, the school system, community organizations, youth leaders and community residents pledge to continue to host discussions, programs, activities and sporting events, to send a strong message to continue to help raise awareness and prevention under its “Bully Free Starts With Me!” theme; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria will do all it can to call attention to the issue of bullying in schools, home, workplace and cyberspace by developing educational and prevention awareness programs to ensure that all students have access to a safe and secure educational environment.

**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 month of October as:

### **“NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH”**

In the City of Alexandria and affirm the commitment and support for the “Bully Free Starts With Me!” bully-prevention initiatives.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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