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

WHEREAS, *the Chesapeake Bay is the largest and most productive estuary in the United States, spanning six states and the District of Columbia, is over 64,000 square miles and home to over 18 million people; and*

WHEREAS, *the Chesapeake Bay watershed is an extraordinary and vital natural resource, as well as an integral part of the history and heritage of the Commonwealth; and*

WHEREAS, *the Chesapeake Bay is fed by five major tributaries, including the Potomac River, and contains more than 15 trillion gallons of water; and*

WHEREAS, *the Chesapeake Bay stretches 200 miles and has an average depth of 21 feet, ranges from 3.4 to 35 miles wide; it supports 348 species of finfish, 173 species of shellfish, and more than 3,600 species of plants and animals; and as an important source of food for the Commonwealth and the East Coast of the United States, the Chesapeake Bay produces more than 500 million pounds of seafood harvest each year; and*

WHEREAS, *the rich history, pivotal economic importance, and astounding beauty of the Chesapeake Bay watershed never cease to amaze residents and visitors alike; and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Alexandria is made up of eight local watersheds, Backlick Run, Cameron Run, Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, Hooff's Run, Strawberry Run, Taylor Run, and Timber Branch, which are important to the character and quality of life in the City and ultimately affect the health of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay; and*

WHEREAS, *in 2008, the City of Alexandria adopted the Eco-City Charter, in 2009 adopted the Environmental Action Plan, and in June 2016 the Chesapeake Bay Commission designated the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week; and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Alexandria, Virginia, is in the Potomac watershed, and this watershed is vital to the character and quality of life of the community, and ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay; and*

WHEREAS, *the City of Alexandria recognizes the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and performs maintenance activities, leads stream cleanups, and implements capital projects to protect and enhance the quality of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, *Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim June 7, 2025, to June 15, 2025 as:*

"CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK"

In the City of Alexandria and urge all citizens to recognize the importance of this observance and to participate in events, activities, and educational programs designed to increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10th day of June 2025.*

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MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk