

WHEREAS, Dr. William Claiborn has had a distinguished record of service with the City of Alexandria beginning 21 years ago, when he first assumed the positions of Executive Director of the Alexandria Community Services Board and Director of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse on September 21, 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claiborn has taken the Community Services Board from an organization with 4 facilities to a nationally recognized provider serving over 4,000 Alexandrians in 63 facilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claiborn is recognized by his peers throughout the State of Virginia for his wise counsel and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claiborn rose to meet many challenges in sometimes difficult political circumstances; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Claiborn's dedicated, creative and tenacious guidance, the Community Services Board has accomplished the following:

- significantly increased residential options for individuals with mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse problems from only two supervised apartments and one group home in 1981 to 10 group homes, 23 supervised apartments and 31 assisted living units in 2002;
- created the Sober Living Unit at the Alexandria Detention Center, a nationally recognized program where inmates learn to live a sober life following release;
- developed a model for vocational services for persons with mental illness;
- expanded the Regional Detoxification Center from six beds for men to 38 beds for men and women;
- located and designed the new headquarters for the Substance Abuse Outpatient Program at Mill Road;
- initiated provision of mental health and substance abuse services at the City's homeless shelters;
- created a Peer Advisor Program at City schools to prevent drug, alcohol and tobacco use among students;
- created a Case Management Unit to meet the needs of individuals with serious mental illness;
- initiated a mobile work crew assisting persons with mental retardation to obtain gainful employment;
- developed in-home mental health services for youth and the elderly;
- created the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team to assist City police and fire service employees in reducing stress and building effective coping skills;
- established the Parent-Infant Education Program to assist infants with developmental disabilities and their families;
- the jewel in Dr. Claiborn's crown, the successful resolution of an 11-year search for a new Clubhouse day treatment center for citizens with mental illness and substance abuse problems; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claiborn is extraordinarily committed to improving the lives of Alexandrians and all Virginians struggling with mental health problems, mental retardation and substance abuse issues through his work with our partners in the region and the state including:

- leading the development of new Medicaid rules in 1989 that represented a major change in social policy; and
- leading the regional cooperative effort to discharge people from state hospitals into the care of the Community Services Boards with accompanying funding; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Claiborn is a brilliant and exceptionally compassionate public servant who has devoted his life to government and the betterment of the people of the City in which he has long served; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of his tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate will resonate throughout the history of our City for decades to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize Dr. William Claiborn for 21 years of distinguished leadership in the City of Alexandria;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 26th day of November 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk



Sent to CC

8 11/26/02

ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

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Chair

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William L. Claiborn, Ph.D.
Executive Director

December 13, 2002

E-mail: acsb@ci.alexandria.va.us

Honorable Mayor Kerry Donley and Members of Council
City Hall of Alexandria
310 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Donley and Council Members,

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the proclamation in my honor on November 26. It has been my honor to serve the City over these 21 plus years, and I will remember my association with the City with high regard.

The Council has, over the years, taken many positive actions which have fostered the development of an excellent system of services for Alexandrians with mental illness, mental retardation and substance dependencies. The Alexandria Board is one of the best locally supported Boards on a per capita basis in the Commonwealth. The Council has also faced several controversial and difficult situations revolving around our siting of residential and day support facilities. I am understanding of our democratic process and the need to earn the trust and respect of both the Council and the citizen. I am pleased with your long term support.

The next few years may present special challenges, but I leave with confidence that your leadership will help find the right balances to continue Alexandria's proud commitment to those less able to care for themselves.

Thank you,

William L. Claiborn, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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cc: Philip Sunderland

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