

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, March 11, 2004 marks the 20th anniversary of the Alexandria Transit Company's (ATC) operation of the City's DASH bus system; and

WHEREAS, DASH has become a vital part of Alexandria's transit network providing clean, safe, affordable and reliable service every day to thousands of commuters, city residents, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, ATC has served a valuable role in preserving the livability of Alexandria by reducing traffic congestion, improving circulation throughout the City, and providing easier access to the regional Metrorail and the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail systems; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Charles Beatley is honored today as the champion and father of DASH, and had a vision over 20 years ago, of a city bus system that would serve the local transit needs of the community and which today transports 3 million passengers a year; and

WHEREAS, ridership over two decades has increased by 225% with over 10,000 passengers riding DASH every weekday and over 7,000 passengers riding on the weekends; and expanded service from 190,000 service miles in 1984 to over 1.2 million service miles today; and

WHEREAS, ATC introduced the free weekend Dash About service in 2001 to support the City's tourism industry and provide easy access to Old Town's shops, restaurants, historic landmarks, and tourist attractions, and continues to gain in popularity carrying close to 5,000 riders each weekend; and

WHEREAS, ATC is recognized nationally and statewide in the service it provides and has won many outstanding achievement awards over the years, including the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) System Safety Award for the past five consecutive years, the APTA Public Transportation System Outstanding Achievement Award, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) Outstanding Urban Public Transportation System Award, the Governor's Transportation Safety Award, and the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Outstanding Public Transportation Marketing Award for the Dash About service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize and commend:

"THE ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY"

the operators of our DASH bus system, its employees and the Board of Directors, for their contributions and efforts to improve public transportation service throughout the City, for their achievements that have been recognized both nationally and by the Commonwealth of Virginia, in providing the highest quality of service to our citizens.

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 March 2004.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk