

WHEREAS, affordable housing is an essential element of a healthy, diverse and economically vibrant community and is of the utmost importance to the residents, leaders and public servants of our City; and

WHEREAS, the broader community benefits when all citizens enjoy affordable housing choices; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 City Council adopted a Strategic Plan which included, among its goals, that Alexandria be "a caring community that is diverse and affordable" with the further objective that, within five years, the City increase the "number of available affordable housing units to offer a range of options for a variety of income and age levels, including low and moderate households, city workers, seniors, and individuals with disabilities"; and

WHEREAS, City leadership has enacted policies and committed significant financial and staffing resources to promote and tangibly support a variety of permanent, long-term affordable rental and homeownership opportunities, including programs to assist City employees so that they may live where they work, creative initiatives to redevelop and preserve the local public housing stock, sponsorship of supportive housing projects that facilitate each resident's self-sufficiency, and testing to ensure that all housing is offered fairly; and

WHEREAS, City Council's creative approach to generate additional resources for affordable housing by dedicating one cent of every real estate property tax dollar levied, and further leveraging this dedicated revenue for use as debt service on general obligation bonds to support affordable housing development, has facilitated a number of substantial loans to non-profit housing organizations to assist their efforts to secure and maintain affordable properties, with the City's investment of money and technical assistance in 2006 resulting in the long term preservation of nearly two hundred affordable rental units, with additional approved units in the pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, and City Council have, through their combined efforts, worked to ensure that affordable housing is given appropriate consideration, along with other City priorities, in land use development decisions; and

WHEREAS, the local non-profit community, including Alexandria's own non-profit housing development corporation as well as established non-profit organizations serving the Northern Virginia region, has demonstrated a commitment to the preservation and development of affordable rental housing options in the City; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria's faith community has responded to the affordable housing challenge through the efforts of a church-sponsored non-profit organization to develop affordable rental housing for elderly households; and

WHEREAS, members of the development community have demonstrated their commitment to affordable housing through the provision of committed on-site affordable units, through voluntary monetary affordable housing contributions, and through participation in work groups and task force efforts designed to increase understanding of the development process, including the challenges and economics of affordable housing development; and

WHEREAS, citizens and advocates have played a critical role in raising community awareness and leveraging public and political support for housing projects; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its policies and its commitment of resources to expand permanent, secure housing options for all, Alexandria has demonstrated that it truly is a caring community that anyone would be proud to call "home";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21 - 28, 2007 as:

"AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK"

in the City of Alexandria and reaffirm the commitment of the City to encourage dialogue, understanding and action to promote affordable housing choices as a community value 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 24th day of April 2007.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk



<CarsonNCA@aol.com>

04/23/2007 09:06 AM

To <MacdonaldCouncil@msn.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <DELPepper@aol.com>, <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>,

cc

bcc

Subject Tuesday's Housing Meetings

8

4-24-07

Friends -- As you know, at tomorrow evening's Council meeting there will be a presentation/resolution on housing. We are grateful for all that you have accomplished. You have received an email notice of the Housing Action meeting tomorrow morning at 8 am at Beth El -- this is an update for our members. While we always enjoy seeing you, it is really not necessary for you to show up both morning and night. So much is going on in housing that we wanted to get our folks together and regroup. See you Tuesday night. Nancy Carson and Jim Hoben for Housing Action

See what's free at AOL.com.