

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the use of illegal and prescription drugs and the abuse of alcohol and nicotine constitute the greatest threats to the well-being of America's children; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Developmental Assets survey of seventh through twelfth grade Alexandria City Public School students indicated that 11% of seventh graders and 25% of twelfth graders reported binge drinking in the two weeks prior to the survey; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria comprised of multiple City agencies, such as Alexandria City Public Schools, private non-profits, businesses and Alexandria citizens, has recently formed a broad-based coalition to reduce substance abuse and tackle these threats; and

WHEREAS, 12 years of surveys conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University have consistently found that the more often children and teenagers eat dinner with their families the less likely they are to smoke, drink and use illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, teenagers who eat dinner with their families two times a week or less are twice as likely to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes, compared to teens who have frequent family dinners; and

WHEREAS, teenagers who eat dinner with their families are half as likely to smoke cigarettes, smoke marijuana and drink alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the correlation between family dinners and reduced risk for teen substance abuse are well documented; and

WHEREAS, parental engagement is known to be one of the most crucial factors in determining the likelihood of substance abuse by teenagers; and

WHEREAS, family dinners have long constituted a substantial pillar of family life in America;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim September 24, 2007, the fourth Monday in September as:

"FAMILY DAY – A DAY TO EAT DINNER WITH YOUR CHILDREN"sm

and call upon the people of Alexandria to recognize and participate in its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of September 2007.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk