WHEREAS, this year the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities is celebrating the 32nd anniversary of its establishment on October 8, 1974, when the Mayor and City Council initiated the Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped, later renamed the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, to remove barriers and foster the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the community life of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, City Council, and the City of Alexandria have continued their commitment to persons with disabilities by strengthening the City's programs and services for such persons and creating an Affirmative Action Plan for the recruitment, advancement and retention of persons with disabilities in City employment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria by this Proclamation reaffirms its commitment to persons with disabilities and commemorates the sixteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a landmark law in the fight for disability rights that has liberated the energies and talents of more than twenty thousand residents in Alexandria and millions of Americans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City will recognize Disability Employment Awareness Month by participating in Student Mentoring Day for students in Alexandria's schools on October 18, 2006, by providing trainings on disability awareness and the ADA and Reasonable Accommodations to employees, and by supporting the City's annual training for Departmental ADA Coordinators to assure residents that the City's programs and services are accessible to persons with disabilities as employees and beneficiaries, and by supporting workforce preparation and placement of people with disabilities through the City's JobLink program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim October 2006 as:

"DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and commend the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities for providing distinguished service to our community and call upon the citizens and organizations in Alexandria to support their mission of ensuring the dignity, equality, independence and full participation of persons with disabilities in the life of 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 October 2006.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC    City Clerk