PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all young people have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society but not all of them get the support they need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, almost half of young people in the United States, or 17.6 million kids, live in situations that put them at risk of living up to their potential; and

WHEREAS, a child’s relationship with a mentor is proven to be effective in combating youth violence, drug use, poor school performance, teen pregnancy and gang involvement; and

WHEREAS, the presence of caring adults offering support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and role modeling is proven to help young people fill their potential; and

WHEREAS, mentoring helps by improving a child’s relationships, school motivation, and positive use of free time and helps youth better face daily challenges and gives new opportunities to consider; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that by spending just 1 hour of time each week with a mentor for a minimum of one year, a child will be more likely to graduate and less likely to become a teen parent, get in fights, use drugs, or become involved in the legal system; and

WHEREAS, National Mentoring Month is taking place in January 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership has formed and consists of a collaborative of 12 mentoring programs actively providing mentoring services in the City of Alexandria; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2008 as:

"MENTORING AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and affirm the commitment of the City to the support of youth mentoring programs 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 8th day of January 2008.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk