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 10-26-10

WHEREAS, Chet and Sabra Avery have been Alexandria residents for over 40 years and have made major contributions to the betterment of the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery was the first appointee to the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, on which he served for 36 years, working tirelessly, with his wife Sabra at his side, to remove barriers and to foster the full participation of people with disabilities in the community life of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery began his career as a teacher and went on to hold leadership and executive positions with the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Education's Office of Special Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Office of Handicapped Concerns, Division of Blind and Visually Impaired; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery was appointed to and served on nearly 25 different Boards, Commissions, Committees, Councils and Workgroups, including the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Alexandria Public Schools, the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council, the Virginia Assistive Technology System Advisory Council, and the Washington Ear; and

WHEREAS, Sabra Avery, who has been a quieter yet forceful catalyst for change and a proponent for fairness, regularly accompanied Chet Avery to City events and made certain that he was able to attend many of the meetings and discussions held by these various groups; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery served more than 25 years on the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, assuming leadership roles and advocating tenaciously for civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery has been an active volunteer with the Alexandria Library's Friends of the Talking Book Service and was appointed by the Library of Congress to serve on the National Library Consumer Advisory group; and

WHEREAS, Chet appeared with one of his granddaughters on a poster that was distributed nationwide for a "National Reading is for Everyone" campaign; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery was a principal leader in the development of audio description for plays, informational tours and movies, and served as a member of the Audio Description Advisory Committee of the National Captioning Institute and the Consumer Advisory Group of the WGBH Media Access Group, to make TV and other media components accessible to persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Chet Avery has earned many awards, commendations, and honors including Alexandrian of the Year, John Duty Collins Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Sanford (Maine) High School Hall of Fame, Outstanding Leadership, Employee of the Year, Living Legend of Alexandria, and he has been named as one of the 200 community leaders who has shaped the life of the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, with Sabra's support, Chet's long record of advocacy, accomplishments, and achievements transformed equal access to facilities, education, transportation, employment, information technology, voting, and recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize Chet and Sabra Avery for their contributions to the Alexandria community and proclaim October 26, 2010, as:

"CHET AND SABRA AVERY DAY"

in the City of Alexandria and commend both Chet and Sabra Avery for providing distinguished service to our community and their tireless work toward 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, Virginia, to be affixed this 26th day of October 2010.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council
 of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk