

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is dedicated to the positive development of its children and youth; and

WHEREAS, adolescent pregnancy continues to be a serious and complex national and local issue that impacts the social, economic, health and developmental outcomes for youth; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Alexandria established the Interagency Consortium on Adolescent Pregnancy (ICAP), a consortium of public and private youth-serving agencies, committed to reducing adolescent pregnancy and promoting services to adolescent parents; and in 1998, ICAP was successful in securing a grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation to ensure teen participation in programs; and

WHEREAS, in January 1999, Mayor Kerry J. Donley formed the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reducing Teen Pregnancy to work in conjunction with ICAP to address this critical issue and to focus specifically on developing a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing adolescent pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, in November 2000, the Task Force and ICAP merged and established the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) to focus community-wide efforts on the goal of reducing Alexandria's teen pregnancy rate by 25 percent by 2005 through public awareness and education and direct service programming; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2001, ACAP held a successful kick-off event at Landmark Mall to launch a year-long public awareness campaign that includes advertising at Hoyts Cinemas in Potomac Yard, transit bus advertising on both Metrobus and DASH bus, cable television commercials, posters, print ads in Spanish, educational brochures for parents and adolescents, and special events for youth to get out the message that adolescent pregnancy is not an acceptable choice in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria remains committed to reducing the rate and incidence of adolescent pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2001, as:

"TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH"

in Alexandria, and I call upon our citizens to observe this month by supporting activities that focus on enhancing our efforts to reduce adolescent pregnancy.

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 May 2001.

KERRY J. DONLEY **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk