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3-25-03**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council approved the promotion of homeownership as policy objective in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to assist public employees, including City and school employees, in purchasing their first home in the community which they are serving; and

WHEREAS, City Council, with the support of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, and Fannie Mae, has endorsed the development of the City's Employer-Assisted Housing Program, in which participating Alexandria employers offer financial and other assistance to their employees, augmented with City homeownership assistance to eligible employees to encourage them to buy a home in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, during calendar year 2003, the City is offering reduced interest rate mortgage financing through a special program of the Virginia Housing Development Authority to all HAP-eligible program participants, and to MIHP participants employed by government agencies or schools located in Alexandria, or by employer-assisted housing participants; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to show homebuyers that, with interest rates at historically low levels, affordable homeownership is possible for low- and moderate-income purchasers, even in the current Alexandria housing market; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to inform potential homebuyers of the many new and improved affordable financing mechanisms to make eligible participants aware of the City's assistance programs, to share other useful information about the homebuying process; and to provide prospective homebuyers with an opportunity to interact with lenders and real estate agents concerning their individual home purchase needs; and

WHEREAS, the City will hold its Ninth Annual Homeownership Fair on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at T.C. Williams High School from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim Saturday, March 29, 2003, as:

"HOMEOWNERSHIP FAIR DAY"

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 25th day of March 2003.

KERRY J. DONLEY**MAYOR**

On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Beverly I. Jett, CMC

City Clerk