

PROCLAMATION

NB2
12-14-04

WHEREAS, Phil Sunderland, who has served as Alexandria's City Manager since March 1, 2000, and who served as City Attorney for almost 14 years before becoming City Manager, is retiring in January, 2005; and

WHEREAS, as a City resident for more than 30 years he has a long history of public service and community work in Alexandria, including serving as president of the Northeast Citizens Association, chairman of the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee and the chairman of the Economic Opportunities Commission; and

WHEREAS, he has served as the President of the Alexandria Bar Foundation and served on the Board of Directors for Legal Services of Northern Virginia from 1993 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, as City Attorney he worked with Council and staff on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, planning for the development of Potomac Yard and the proposed relocation of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the City; and

WHEREAS, he also served as the City's chief negotiator on the innovative \$33 million revenue bond financing of the air pollution control retrofit of the Alexandria/Arlington waste-to-energy facility on Eisenhower Avenue; and

WHEREAS, City Manager Phil Sunderland directed an annual budget in excess of \$500 million and managed a workforce of more than 2,500 employees; and

WHEREAS, under Phil Sunderland's four year leadership as City Manager:

- ▶ the City's real estate tax rate was reduced every year for the past three years;
- ▶ the City's crime rate decreased to all time lows, making the City a safer place for residents and businesses;
- ▶ the City Council adopted a long-term Vision for Alexandria and a Strategic Plan to achieve that vision;
- ▶ the City returned to community-based land use planning with extensive planning activities in many areas, including Eisenhower East, Arlandria, the Mt. Vernon corridor and the King Street retail corridor;
- ▶ the City approved the move of the 7,100 employees of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to Alexandria. Phil worked extensively with PTO architects to produce an outstanding design for the project's five-building campus, and worked closely with City staff and the PTO construction team to minimize the impacts of the 2.5 million square-foot project on the adjacent community;
- ▶ the City worked to acquire significant public benefits from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, including acquisition of Freedmen's Cemetery, construction of an urban deck at Washington Street, purchase and development of over 13 acres of new athletic fields, and construction of an exit/entrance ramp to the Beltway at Mill Road;
- ▶ the City made substantial improvements to its affordable housing policy and programs, including creation and funding of a Housing Development Corporation, establishing a Housing Opportunities Fund, providing financial and operational support for the Samuel Madden public housing redevelopment project, and establishing the Homeownership Opportunities Program;
- ▶ the City expanded and provided new leadership to its Emergency Preparedness program after September 11, 2001, including improved community education, and enhanced security throughout Alexandria;
- ▶ the City retained its AAA bond ratings and remained fiscally strong and sustainable, even while its multi-year capital improvement program for critical infrastructure needs of both the City government and the public schools nearly doubled to over \$300 million;
- ▶ the City expanded its service delivery facilities for the first time to the west end with the relocation of the Health Department and the Mental Health Clubhouse program to 4480 King Street;
- ▶ the City expanded and improved communication with residents and business with the bimonthly newsletter, FYI Alexandria (in English and Spanish), the "eNews You Can Use" email bulletins, major upgrades and enhancements to the City's web sites; and

WHEREAS, City Council, City employees and members of the Alexandria community wish to thank City Manager Phil Sunderland for his hard work and dedication to the City of Alexandria, for always caring about people and for wanting to make things better for the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council do hereby express its appreciation to Phil for a job well done and wishes him well in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of December 2004.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC
City Clerk