

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 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 relationship, 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 2-4 hours of time each week with a mentor for a minium 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, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership has formed and consists of a collaborative of 15 mentoring programs actively providing mentoring services in the City of Alexandria;

WHEREAS, a free mentoring information dinner session celebrating National Mentoring Month will take place on Wednesday, January 31 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, and interested parties can log onto alexandriava.gov/mentoring or contact Gang Prevention Coordinator Mike Mackey to RSVP or to get more information;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2007 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 9th day of January 2007.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk