

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 of all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has the third highest teenage pregnancy rate in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, since 1991, Alexandria public and private youth-serving agencies have worked together to reduce adolescent pregnancy and promote services to adolescent parents; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2005, Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) identified a goal of reducing Alexandria's adolescent pregnancy rate by 15 percent by 2010 through culturally and age appropriate education, advocacy, technical assistance, direct service prevention programs and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, between 2005 and 2006, the teen pregnancy rate dropped 17.9%; and

WHEREAS, the ACAP website, www.alexgetreal.com, provides youth and their parents access to information, podcasts, videos, and interactive components about adolescent pregnancy and sexual health; and

WHEREAS, ACAP is recruiting youth in grades 7 – 10 to be members of an ACAP Youth Advisory Board to promote ACAP events and services, to conduct activities, and to serve as the editorial board for Get Real magazine and as advisors to ACAP; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2008, ACAP will host a dramatic performance by City at Peace entitled "Avoiding Plan B" to see real stories of youth involved in and trying to avoid teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of May, a traveling photography project, "From Books to Bottles", created by the Alexandria Youth Council will be on display in the City of Alexandria to show how teen pregnancy is viewed by youth through the lens of a camera;

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 May 2008, as:

"TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH"

in Alexandria, and 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 13th day of May 2008.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk