

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is dedicated to creating a City where youth are valued and appreciated, no matter what; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools acknowledge the important roles that young people play in shaping a harmonious community reflecting a diverse range of youth experiences and perspectives; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools recognize that teens have a major influence on their community and their peers, and that young people are in a perfect position to communicate the importance of creating an atmosphere of understanding and respect of different cultures and viewpoints at school, at home and in the community; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools acknowledge the importance of teens getting involved in their community and are dedicated to empowering young people to use their voices, creative talents and leadership skills to make a difference in the City of Alexandria; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools appreciate the full diversity and complexity of teen life and recognize that communication is crucial for the common good of our local, national and international communities; and*

*WHEREAS, through Youth Voices for Unity!, young people have the opportunity to collaborate with a variety of artists to create a city-wide poster campaign, inspired by the theme, "We Are More Than What You See," thereby highlighting the cultural composition and heritage of teens in the City of Alexandria and giving adults in Alexandria an increased understanding and awareness of youth from all cultures, races and ethnicities;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do recognize and invite all of Alexandria's teens to make connections through:*

**"YOUTH VOICES FOR UNITY!"**

*in the City of Alexandria, and encourage students in grades 9-12 in public and private schools to engage in respectful, honest and thought-provoking dialogue and exchange of ideas about race, culture and their experiences as teens by participating in the "Spectrum of Conversations" during the 2008-2009 school year.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008.*

**WILLIAM D. EUILLE**      **MAYOR**

*On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk