

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, on March 10, 1993, Dr. David Gunn was shot and killed by a white supremacist anti-abortion extremist, in the first known instance of the murder of an abortion provider; and

WHEREAS, to honor his memory, March 10 has since been established to show appreciation for the high-quality care that family planning clinics and their staff provide, and to celebrate their courage, compassion, and dedication to their work of protecting women's reproductive rights; and to affirm that these services must be accessible for people to make real decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures; and

WHEREAS, recent restrictions in some states have forced many family planning clinics to shut down, and that the recent gutting of the Title X program has further threatened access to abortion referrals and reproductive services and care; and

WHEREAS, shortages ensuing from such conditions create and increase the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens that patients face to get care, while exposing the remaining abortion providers and staff to increased levels of harassment and politically motivated restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States now contains a majority of Justices who may not interpret the Constitution to provide protection for the right to end a pregnancy and may overturn or severely limit *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, which includes the threat of women and abortion providers being arrested and sent to jail; and

WHEREAS, such aforementioned conditions and sentiments are a threat to women's reproductive rights, and are therefore a threat to basic human rights; and

WHEREAS, family planning clinics and their staff courageously provide care in the face of these restrictions, political interference, and threats to their personal safety; and this has only been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, such professionals in Alexandria are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as they work with public health providers, hospitals, and others to serve their communities, conserve health resources, and ensure patients can get the time-sensitive reproductive health care they need, including birth control and reproductive services, while prioritizing keeping their patients and staff safe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize March 10th, 2022, as:

“ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY”

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, and in so doing, honor Dr. Gunn's memory and celebrate the courage, compassion, and the high-quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff provide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of March, 2022.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk