

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, before 1920, formal education for Alexandria’s African-American children was provided by the Hallowell School for Girls with Sara Gray, principal, and at the Snowden School for Boys, with John F. Parker, principal; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1920, after continuing pressure and efforts from leaders such as Reverend Samuel B. Ross, Samuel Tucker, Henry Taylor, Blanche Taylor, and alumni and teachers of Hallowell and Snowden, a new school building, located at Alfred and Wythe Streets was opened and named in honor of John Parker and Sarah Gray; and

**WHEREAS**, the new school contained twelve classrooms, a large auditorium that doubled as a gymnasium and a basement, and when the Parker-Gray School opened there were 675 students in grades one through eight, and employed only nine teachers with only the barest necessities: and

**WHEREAS**, in 1936, Parker-Gray became recognized as a four-year high school certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia, serving students in grades eight through eleven; and

**WHEREAS**, the first class to attend Parker-Gray School, for grades eight through eleven graduated in 1936, 16 years after the original school was opened; and

**WHEREAS**, the alumni and faculty of Parker-Gray High School have made positive contributions to the quality of life for their communities and society at large; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and legacy of Parker-Gray High School is forever woven into the fabric of City of Alexandria and embodied in the in the hearts, souls and minds of Parker-Gray Alumni, City residents and visitors, and “The School is gone but the Legacy Lives on” and

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame to ensure the triumphs of Parker-Gray School not only be recognized, but that this recognition continues in **Perpetuity**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim September 10, to be:

## “PARKER-GRAY DAY”

and join the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame and Parker-Gray Alumni in commemorating this historical legacy at the Charles H. Houston Recreation Center, located at 901 Wythe Street, the site of the original Parker-Gray School.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.



**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk