

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all legacies have a beginning and the year of 1920 can be considered the beginning of one the greatest eras of academic prosperity for hundreds of Alexandria African-American students who attended Parker-Gray School, which opened that year in the City of Alexandria for students in grades one through eight; and

WHEREAS, Parker-Gray alumni have excelled in many areas, including the arts, government, education, military services, athletics and many other endeavors; and

WHEREAS, notably there are very few visible landmarks, structures or documentation of events that reflect the valuable contributions of Alexandria's African-American legacy and for many African-Americans who reside in Alexandria, our history is reflected in what we don't see, and is less accessible to us; and

WHEREAS, nowhere in Alexandria is there a single thoroughfare which registers such significance to the local African-American resident as the newly-named Parker-Gray Way, beginning at Wythe and West Streets running east of Wythe Street to St. Asaph Street; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame, the many Parker-Gray alumni and communities worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of their forebearers and the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame and the City of Alexandria, launched the "PAVING OUR HISTORY" Memorial Walkway Project on March 3, 2020, to recognize the Black men and women who attended Parker-Gray School and made remarkable achievements in the face of tremendous odds; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial Brick Walkway is a timely exhibit that comes at a pivotal time when the Parker-Gray neighborhood is experiencing a rapid transformation; and

WHEREAS, the history and the legacy of Parker-Gray High School is forever woven into the fabric of the City of Alexandria and embodied in the hearts, souls and minds of the Parker-Gray High School Alumni, City residents and visitors, exhibiting the motto, "The School is Gone but the Legacy Live On."

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

"PARKER-GRAY MEMORIAL WALKWAY"

And encourage all residents to celebrate the illustrious history of the Parker-Gray School in the City of Alexandria.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to affixed this 24th day of October, 2020.



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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sifton, CMC City Clerk