

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson* the United States Supreme Court abandoned longstanding precedents and overturned *Roe v. Wade* as well as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and

WHEREAS, there is no decision more important for a woman than whether and when to have children; and

WHEREAS, for more than 50 years the right of women to reproductive choice has been recognized and protected at the Federal level; and

WHEREAS, abortion is an essential reproductive health service and its availability is an important part of ensuring every American's right to safe and accessible health care; and

WHEREAS, that right to a safe abortion has proven essential to the ability of women across this nation to protect their health, their lives, and the financial stability of their families; and

WHEREAS, that right to reproductive choice also impacts the liberty, health and financial security of transgender men and non-binary Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible to ban abortion, but only to ban safe and legal abortions, as evidenced by the many people harmed or killed by illicit procedures in the years before *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, limiting access to safe abortion has been shown to increase incidents of domestic abuse, and laws criminalizing abortion can have profoundly negative impacts on women who suffer miscarriages; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of limiting access to safe abortion disproportionately affect low-income women, women of color, transgender and non-binary Americans, and survivors of child abuse, sexual assault or domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny were foundational decisions codifying the right to privacy, and their repeal places in jeopardy many other essential rights and freedoms enjoyed by the American people; and

WHEREAS, women's reproductive rights are human rights and the majority of the American people support the right of women to make these personal decisions without the intervention of their government; and

WHEREAS, despite the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* the right to a safe abortion remains protected by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia as they currently stand, though that right has been and will continue to be under legislative attack in the General Assembly of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has in recent years taken positions in favor of a woman’s right to choose in our legislative package, and has repeatedly opposed bills in the General Assembly of Virginia that would restrict access to safe abortion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has a vested interest in protecting and promoting the health and the rights of its residents, including the right of women to reproductive choice and the right of all Alexandrians to privacy;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY
THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, THAT:**

1) We reaffirm our opposition to the imposition of restrictions on reproductive choice by the governments of the Commonwealth or the United States, and stand in solidarity with women in states where abortion has become or soon will become illegal;

2) We call upon the General Assembly of Virginia and the United States Congress to take such actions as may be necessary to protect the right to abortion in Virginia;

3) We ask the City Attorney to actively seek participation, as a plaintiff or amicus curiae, in on-going or future litigation to protect the availability of abortion services in Alexandria;

4) We ask that the City Manager work with the Director of Planning & Zoning, in consultation with the City Attorney, to review existing land-use regulations regarding the operation of a clinic providing abortion services, and bring forward for consideration Zoning Text Amendments to ensure unfettered administrative approval in any commercial or mixed-use zone; and

5) We ask that the City Manager consider budgetary proposals for the FY 2024 budget to ensure accessibility of reproductive health services, safe abortion services, accessible maternal and child health services for low-income Alexandria residents.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: June 28, 2022