



PROCLAMATION

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WORLD AIDS DAY

Whereas, every year, on December 1, the world commemorates World AIDS Day, and people around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV, and to remember those who have lost their lives to AIDS; and

Whereas, AIDS and HIV disease continue to be a priority health concern in the United States, with World AIDS Day serving as a reminder of the approximately 1.2 million people in the U.S. living with HIV today; and

Whereas, in Arlington, 1,283 people are currently living with HIV/AIDS, a slight increase from the previous year, and 1,111 people have died from HIV/AIDS since 1982; and

Whereas, in 2020, the world's attention has been focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, and how health is interlinked with other critical issues, such as inequality, human rights, social protections, and economic growth. With this in mind, this year the theme of World AIDS Day is "Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility;" and

Whereas, COVID-19 has demonstrated that, during a pandemic, no one is safe until everyone is safe, that leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed, and that eliminating stigma and discrimination are key to ending the colliding pandemics of HIV and COVID-19; and

Whereas, though Arlington County has much to be proud of with respect to health, including leadership in adopting an equity resolution and appointing a Chief Equity Officer, there are still inequities in health in Arlington, including those revealed through the pandemics of HIV/AIDS and COVID-19;

Now, Therefore, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, VA, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020 as

WORLD AIDS DAY

in Arlington County, pledge that the County will continue its response to HIV/AIDS, call on Arlingtonians to get tested for HIV, use protection, and encourage friends and loved ones to get tested, too, and demonstrate compassion for those infected with HIV and AIDS.

Libby Garvey
Chair