ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

PROCLAMATION

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, July marks the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and ensures their full participation in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month celebrates the identities, culture, contributions, and resilience of people with disabilities and affirms the belief that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity; and

WHEREAS, more than 61 million Americans, including many residents of Arlington County, live with visible and invisible disabilities, and they are an essential part of the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County is committed to building a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable community for people of all abilities, and recognizes that disability rights are civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Disability Pride Month provides an opportunity to promote awareness, challenge stigma, advocate for accessibility, and celebrate the achievements of the disability community, while recommitting to the removal of physical or systemic barriers that limit opportunity and participation; and

WHEREAS, local organizations including The Arc of Northern Virginia, SPARC, and The ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) provide critical support, advocacy, and leadership in advancing disability rights; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the intersectionality within the disability community and the importance of amplifying diverse voices in the fight for equity and justice;

 NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **July 2025**, as **Disability Pride Month** in Arlington County and encourages all residents, businesses, and organizations to join in celebrating the contributions of people with disabilities and continuing the work of making Arlington a community that is inclusive and accessible for all.

Takis Karantonis
Chair