

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its incorporation as an independent City of the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 16, 2023; and
- WHEREAS, to commemorate the history of the community, a series of events, programs, and educational opportunities will be held from August 16, 2023 to August 31, 2024, and;
- WHEREAS, it is appropriate at this time to recognize the longstanding history of settlement in the Falls Church area including, but not limited to:
- indigenous peoples who inhabited the surrounding lands for hundreds of years prior to European colonization, including the Piscataway, Manahoac, Doeg, and Nacotchtank peoples;
 - the first recorded mark of non-native settlement in Falls Church noted on the chimney of a log cabin in 1699;
 - the construction of the original Anglican Falls Church in 1733, replaced by the current structure in 1769, ever-after standing in the center of the community;
 - enslaved, indentured, and free Black people whose businesses, organizations, and relationships built a thriving community that persists in their descendants who continue to live in Falls Church;
 - the incorporation of the Town of Falls Church in Fairfax County with its own public schools in 1875;
 - influxes of immigrants from across the world that have shaped the economic, cultural, and political landscape of Falls Church; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church was incorporated following a 1948 appeal of the Town Council to the Circuit Court for an enumeration of its citizens, and the outcome of adjudication with 5,000 residents resulted in certification of the Town of Falls Church as a City of the Second Class on August 16, 1948, and;
- WHEREAS, the Falls Church City Public Schools Division was subsequently authorized by the Commonwealth on June 27, 1949, introducing a key component of the community that continues to educate and develop the talents of the youth of the City, and;
- WHEREAS, following incorporation, the City of Falls Church has risen to regional and national distinction for its dedication to environmental stewardship, high levels of community engagement, successful and diverse business community, and exceptional public school system, and;
- WHEREAS, the community is proud of City’s history, and seeks to acknowledge both the successes and challenges the community has faced over the years; and
- WHEREAS, we acknowledge that while, at times in the past, the institution of slavery, post Civil War segregation, and other factors have led to diverse voices and perspectives going unheard; today, we are dedicated to being a welcoming and inclusive community – a special place in the heart of Northern Virginia, and;
- WHEREAS, extraordinary civic engagement is key to the City's long-term success and to preserving a small-town character with a deep commitment to progress and inclusivity; and
- WHEREAS, the City’s goals for the future are reflections of the values and lessons of the past, and also represent the heart of the intentions set out by the earliest founders and contributors to Falls Church;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia do hereby designate August 16, 2023 through August 31, 2024 as

The City of Falls Church 75th Anniversary Celebration

in the City of Falls Church and urge everyone to join in the celebration of our fair City by participating in events planned for the next 12 months.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Tarter".

Mayor David Tarter