



Proclamation

Mayor Mitch Reynolds

City of La Crosse

WHEREAS, as we gather to honor the life and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we also honor those in our community who have carried forth that legacy with ongoing work for equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the profound impact that Thomas Harris has, and continues to have, on the City and County of La Crosse in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion, including through his work to establish this annual celebration; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse would like to commemorate the depth and breadth of influence Thomas has had on the personal, social, and educational development of our current and future citizens of this region through both his mentorship of thousands of University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students and focused community enlightenment; and

WHEREAS, Thomas has dedicated his life to service in the interest of raising up tomorrow's leaders through deeply embedded and often unnoticed work in creating sustainable change; and

WHEREAS, Thomas has strengthened our community through his leadership with the White Privilege Symposium and Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Thomas has shown a commitment to making our city, county and region more resolutely healthy and unified through his steadfast dedication, excitement, and belief in social justice and human rights and by paving the way for others to build relationships while working to eliminate racial inequity and standing as markers of change; and

WHEREAS, Thomas demonstrates an outstanding commitment and level of activity towards community transformation, is an integral part of global citizenship, exemplifies strong leadership skills, actively participates in volunteerism, and demonstrates long-term dedication to eliminating racism, promoting social justice, equal rights, racial diversity and inclusion for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCH REYNOLDS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, and on behalf of and along with a grateful community, do hereby officially recognize and celebrate, upon his retirement, the enduring legacy of **THOMAS HARRIS** and offer public acknowledgement and gratitude for his extensive contributions over three decades to make our community much better than he found it.

Dated on this 17th day of January in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two.



MAYOR MITCH REYNOLDS