

**WHEREAS,** the All-America City Award, a program from the National Civic League, is the oldest and most respected community recognition program in the nation, and this year marked the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award, recognizing communities where people work together to identify and tackle community-wide challenges and achieve uncommon results; and

**WHEREAS,** each year, 20 communities from across the country are selected as finalists, after a committee of public and civic affairs experts review extensive applications; and

**WHEREAS,** the finalist communities present their applications and answer questions posed by a jury, after which 10 All-America Cities are announced; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Battle Creek applied for the award, with the 2018 theme of Promoting Equity Through Inclusive Civic Engagement, by highlighting three community projects: the Edward Byrne criminal justice grant; Battle Creek Coalition of Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation; and BC Vision; and

**WHEREAS,** Battle Creek was chosen as one of the 20 finalists, traveling to Denver, Colo. in June with a 15-member delegation, including city staff, representatives from the three community projects, Youth Advisory Board members, and neighbors; and

**WHEREAS,** the Battle Creek delegation presented the application, met with other communities from across the country, and took part in workshops, promoting the city and gaining knowledge and ideas to bring home, though Battle Creek was not named one of the 10 All-America Cities;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mark A. Behnke, Mayor of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, do hereby recognize the City of Battle Creek's status as a

## **"2018 ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST"**

and urge the entire community to congratulate the Battle Creek delegation members for their hard work and dedication to lifting up the city through this program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Logo of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2018.

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Mark A. Behnke, Mayor

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David A. Walters, Vice Mayor