

- WHEREAS,** we have all witnessed racial divisiveness rising in America’s urban, rural, suburban, and tribal communities today, which threatens the very core of this great country’s unified front; and
- WHEREAS,** just like those who came before us, it is our duty to protect the children of this country and maintain communities in which they may **all** have the opportunity to succeed; and
- WHEREAS,** we understand and recognize that there is a racial divide in our country and we must all work earnestly to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias and build an equitable and just society so that **all** children can thrive; and
- WHEREAS,** children have the right to be provided every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that don’t violate their safety, dignity, and humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** every single person has the capability to make changes within themselves that can have profound effects on an entire society; and
- WHEREAS,** if we all dedicate ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing and transformation, we can bring about the necessary changes in thinking, behavior, and systems that will propel this great country forward as a unified force, where racial biases will become a thing of the past; and
- WHEREAS,** racial healing is a vital and crucial commitment to the education, social, mental and over all well-being of our children; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Battle Creek, in conjunction with others throughout the United States of America, acknowledges January 22, 2019 as the “National Day of Racial Healing,” and urges all residents to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mark A. Behnke, Mayor of the City of Battle Creek, Michigan, do hereby proclaim *January 22, 2019*, as

**“National Day of Racial Healing”**

and urge all citizens to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2019



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Mark A. Behnke, Mayor