



CITY OF ROCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS:** *The continued rise of racial divisiveness in America's urban, rural, suburban and tribal communities today threatens the very core of this great country's unified front; This dissention behooves us all to work earnestly to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious oppression and to build an equitable and just society so that all individuals can thrive; and*

**WHEREAS:** *America's citizens are entrusted with the challenge to provide all children with every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that don't violate their safety, dignity and humanity; Just like those who came before us, it is our duty to protect the children of this country and to maintain communities in which they may all be given the opportunity to succeed; and*

**WHEREAS:** *America has inched forward since Colonial Days, Slavery Days and the fertile Civil Rights Days of the 1960s, in attitudes toward the positive values of a diverse society. Yet systemic racism and bigotry continue to exist, especially ideologies and attitudes entrenched in our own established institutions such as government, education, religion, law enforcement, media, the military and the entire justice and prison system, to name a few; and*

**WHEREAS:** *Until the hearts, minds and souls of the individuals within these institutions can grasp the meaning of human dignity, beauty through diversity, inalienable rights, equity, justice and basic kindness, and we speak with one voice and one understanding, it will be difficult for racial healing to occur. However, the City of Rochester supports the idea that every single person has the capacity to make a simple change within him or herself that can have a profound impact on an entire society – propelling this great country forward as a unified force with racial biases a thing of the past; and*

**WHEREAS:** *The City of Rochester urges all citizens to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a way to work together to ensure the best quality of life for all people.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lovely A. Warren, Mayor of the City of Rochester, New York, in partnership with the National League of Cities, do hereby recognize January 22, 2019 as the:*

## **NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING**

*In Witness Whereof, I Have hereunto set my hand on this twenty-second day of January in the year 2019.*

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lovely A. Warren'.

**Mayor, Rochester, New York**