

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, June 15, 2020 is the day when our City of Joplin celebrates a diversity and inclusion proclamation; and

WHEREAS, we understand **Diversity** is the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical and mental abilities or attributes, religious or ethical value systems, national origin, and political opinions; and

WHEREAS, we understand **Belonging** is being welcomed and fully accepted as an essential part of the community. In a city where everyone belongs, residents are compassionate and care for one another, feel connected, acknowledge and honor that each person of the community is endowed with immense value and insights that make the whole community stronger; and

WHEREAS, we understand **Inclusion** to be welcomed involvement that empowers the inherent worth and dignity of all people. An inclusive city promotes and sustains a sense of belonging; it values and practices respect for the talents, beliefs, and backgrounds of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, The City of Joplin acknowledges the dignity of all people and embraces an openness in differences and dialogue. We urge individuals and organizations in the Joplin community to nurture authentic relationships with one another that will enhance their voices and foster genuine belonging; and

WHEREAS, We understand that Joplin's vitality depends on building a strong community where all belong. We, the people of the City of Joplin, Missouri in order to form a more perfect municipal government, strive to be a diverse and inclusive City that will foster and ensure belonging, equity, social justice, and freedom from fear of persecution. We cherish the diversity that enhances our quality of life and allows us to live, learn, work, worship, and play as a community. The City of Joplin is firmly committed to the delivery of and access to resources for all. Our City will not tolerate discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ryan D. Stanley, Mayor of the City of Joplin, Missouri, do hereby proclaim on this day that

The City of Joplin, Missouri will be a community where diversity, belonging, and inclusivity is honored, respected, and promoted.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Joplin to be affixed this 15th day of June 2020.

Ryan D. Stanley, Mayor