

Thomas P. McNamara  
Mayor

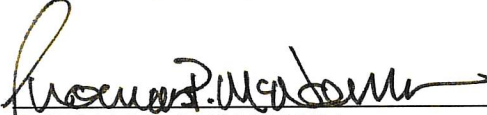
## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, *Ferentino is an ancient walled hilltop town southeast of Rome, Italy with three distinct important periods of architecture and pre-Roman ruins, including markets, theaters, and distinctive stone gates; and*
- WHEREAS, *as a project of the Greater Rockford Italian American Association (GRIAA), a sister city committee was formed in 2005 to facilitate a formal partnership between Rockford and Ferentino. The committee, the Italian Sister Cities Alliance (RISCA) has met regularly ever since and sponsors numerous educational and cultural programs and events; and*
- WHEREAS, *the Italian Sister City program activities have included multiple student and adult exchanges, pen pal programs, the establishment of the Italian Sister City garden and commemorative plaque at the Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza, educational programs and cultural displays at City Hall, Midway Village Museum, and the Ethnic Heritage Museum; and peace poles in Rockford and Ferentino; and*
- WHEREAS, *GRIAA and RISCA are proud to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the Sister City agreement with a year of activities planned to commemorate this milestone;*
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS P. MCNAMARA, as Mayor of the city of Rockford do hereby proclaim 2026 to be:

### **“SISTER CITY FERENTINO ITALY 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR”**

*in Rockford, Illinois and urge all citizens to celebrate this anniversary with the GRIAA and RISCA and to embrace our community’s Italian heritage.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 15th day of May 2026.

  
THOMAS P. MCNAMARA  
CITY OF ROCKFORD

