



Thomas P. McNamara  
Mayor

## **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Zion Lutheran Church is leading the Mark Charles "Common Memory Tour" Civil Rights Conference on April 18, 2026 at Patriots Gateway Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Patriots Gateway is a place created to provide a gateway of opportunity so that "we the people" could move toward "all the people"; and

WHEREAS, Zion Lutheran Church sold its property on Spring Creek near Mulford in 1982 and committed to create a community of belonging for all people; and

WHEREAS, Zion Lutheran Church believes that location matters and sharing resources matter, and acknowledging our past is vital to create a common memory of the land that was stolen and the lives of those whom we have forgotten. Let it be proclaimed that this land near the Rock was a place where others lived whom we displaced; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USA, we are called to remember the Native American people who stewarded this land and who were called "savages" in our founding documents;

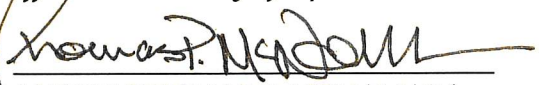
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS P. MCNAMARA, as Mayor of the city of Rockford do hereby recognize the:

### **"ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & MARK CHARLES CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2026"**

in Rockford, Illinois and urge all citizens to acknowledge the mission of Zion Lutheran Church, and to tell the stories of others who have been excluded from the "we the people" in order to create a community of belonging for all the people.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2026.

  
MAYOR THOMAS P. MCNAMARA  
CITY OF ROCKFORD