

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel wishes to celebrate and honor Mrs. Lula Cooley upon her retirement from the City of Laurel, where she has, in various capacities, served the community with unwavering dedication and grace since 1985 when she was elected as the first black female city council member, serving two terms in Ward 6; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley additionally has served the City of Laurel as the Community Development Director in 2005, Planning Development Clerk in 2009, Retirement City Program Clerk in 2010, and retiring as the Hometown Mississippi Living Director since 2011, overseeing the operations of the B.E Murph Center for Seniors in Daphne Park; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley's trailblazing spirit and exemplary leadership have paved the way for future generations, inspiring many to pursue public service, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley has tirelessly worked in these capacities fostering growth and unity within our beloved city, initiating programs that have enriched our neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley's leadership as the Retirement City Program Director has brought profound joy, care, and opportunities for engagement to our senior citizens, ensuring their golden years are filled with dignity and joy, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley's role as the Hometown Mississippi Living Director has celebrated the rich heritage and vibrant culture of our state, bringing pride and recognition to our community, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley's commitment to the betterment of our city has been steadfast, and her visionary approach has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lula Cooley has been a beacon of hope, a champion for equality, and a relentless advocate for progress, consistently going above and beyond in her service to the community

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that I, Johnny Magee, Mayor of the City of Laurel, Mississippi, along with Grace Amos, Ward Six Councilwoman, and we, the Laurel City Council, do hereby proclaim **MARCH 18th, 2025**, as

MRS. LULA COOLEY DAY

In the City of Laurel, and we, the citizens of Laurel, do hereby honor and commend Mrs. Lula Cooley for her remarkable service and contributions. Her legacy of excellence, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our community will forever be cherished and remembered. May her retirement be as fulfilling and inspiring as her years of service. May she find continued joy, peace, and success in all her future endeavors.

WITNESS our signatures and the seal of the City of Laurel, Mississippi, this the 18th day of MARCH, A.D. 2024.

ATTEST:

Johnny Magee, Mayor

Kristal Jones, City Clerk

Jason Capers, Councilman, Ward 1

Kevin Kelly, Councilman, Ward 2

Anthony L. Thaxton, Councilman, Ward 3, President

George Carmichael, Councilman, Ward 4

Andrea Ellis, Councilwoman, Ward 5

Grace Amos, Councilwoman, Ward 6

Shirley Jordan, Councilwoman, Ward 7

ATTEST:

Sharon King, Clerk of the Council