Proclamation No. 2024-25
Kwanzaa Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa is an observance week annually celebrated from December 26 to January 1 celebrating African American family, heritage, community contributions and culture throughout the world. The name 'Kwanzaa' translates to "first fruits of the harvest" in the Swahili; and

WHEREAS, Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Africana Studies at California State University. Since 1966, Kwanzaa has been celebrated for a week with the lighting of a 7 prong candle holder, called a *Kinara*. Kwanzaa is organized with proclamations by mayors and city councils, festivities and events to recognize the significance of values and core principles. The three official colors are black, red and green which are symbolic and representative of Kwanzaa. The green color represents the hope for a better future, the red represents the struggle and barriers throughout history and the single black candle which is placed in the center represents African people; and

WHEREAS, the 7 core principles include Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. Throughout the week there are fundamental activities of the ingathering of people, spiritual worship, commemoration of the past and commitments to positively build proactively for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard, North Carolina, honors cultural diversity, equity and inclusion for all to enjoy. This city upholds a tradition to enrich the community with values, proactively preserve African American historical preservation and welcome all residents to participate in recognizing Kwanzaa as an opportunity to continue to unite; and

WHEREAS, this city will continue to successfully build strong foundations, collectively embracing cultural diversity that empowers people of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds and focus on aspiring towards the future that educates and respects cultural diversity. Diversity strengthens our city socially, economically and improves the quality of life for all residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 26, 2024 to January 1, 2025, as **KWANZAA WEEK** in the City of Brevard and commend its observance to all citizens.

Signed this 2nd day of December, 2024.

Attest:

Denise Hodsdon, CMC, City Clerk

Maureen Copelof, Mayor