CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

Proclamation

N0. 2026-21
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RISE & SHINE

WHEREAS, in response to public Ku, Klux, Klan (or KKK) rallies held in Brevard in 1988 and again in 1992, an interracial group gathered by social activist Fay Walker, began to meet monthly for dialogue around dismantling racism, racial justice and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, after this coalition called "Friends" hosted a series of talks entitled, "Racism: Everybody's Problem" at Bethel "A" Baptist Church, its pastor, Frederick Gordon suggested steps be taken to help underserved children and families, beginning with the youngest; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gordon and Fay Walker worked together diligently in collaboration with parents and community members to design an after school program built around individual attention and the encouragement of children and their families with its signature to be daily one-on-one tutoring; and

WHEREAS, the founders recruited teams of volunteer tutors and mentors from local churches and community-based organizations, and inaugurated The Rise & Shine After School Program in October of 1996, with a handful of students, called Scholars, in attendance; and

WHEREAS, in the following 30 years the program has been nurtured by countless devoted community volunteers and institutions and supported by local businesses and individuals to serve a capacity of 50 Scholars each year; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of enriching children, empowering parents, encouraging community and building the beloved community of racial justice and reconciliation has become the hallmark of Rise & Shine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maureen Copelof, Mayor of the City of Brevard, hereby honor the 30th Anniversary of Rise & Shine and ask our citizens to extend their appreciation for the exemplary work Rise & Shine continues to do in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Brevard, North Carolina, to be affixed this, the 8th day of September, 2026

Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC
City Clerk