

# 150th Library Anniversary Proclamation

WHEREAS, Independence became the first city in Iowa to have a free, tax-supported public library in September 1873; and

WHEREAS, the library, having been established on the second floor of the Wilcox building located on the south side of Main Street, was destroyed by a fire in May 1874; and

WHEREAS, the opening day of the new Independence Free Public Library was June 6, 1895, located at 210 2nd St NE on the second floor of the new building donated by Perry Munson; and

WHEREAS, a capital campaign for a new library achieved its \$3.1 million stretch goal with \$2.4 million in private donations and grants in 2007; and

WHEREAS, groundbreaking was held at 805 First St East with several hundred in attendance on May 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the community enthusiastically embraced the new library on First St East with a Grand Opening on Oct. 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the library has been an asset to the community for 150 years, providing patrons of all ages with valuable information and resources; and

WHEREAS, the library has become a community center where exceptional service and relevant resources promote connections, inspire thought, and enrich lives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Brad Bleichner, Mayor of the City of Independence, do hereby proclaim recognition of the wisdom and foresight of those who have gone before us as we celebrate the statewide milestone of the first library in Iowa to offer 150 years of free library service.

I call upon all citizens to join in the sesquicentennial celebration as the library continues to move forward, inspiring lifelong learning and connecting our community.

Signed this 25th day of September, 2023

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Brad Bleichner, Mayor

