

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pahokee proudly acknowledges the historic and cultural importance of East Lake High School, originally constructed as the Pahokee School in 1924, which became the first educational institution in the City dedicated to serving African-American students during a time of widespread segregation; and

**WHEREAS**, at a time when African-American students in Palm Beach County were limited to an 8th grade education, East Lake High School stood as a powerful symbol of hope, progress, and opportunity, offering a pathway to higher learning and personal growth long before full integration took place in 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, from the 1950s through the 1970s, East Lake High School fostered an environment of academic achievement, athletic distinction, and community pride, serving as a cornerstone of excellence and perseverance in the face of inequality; and

**WHEREAS**, East Lake High School played a pivotal role in the ongoing pursuit of educational equity, standing as a source of inspiration for students, educators, and families throughout the Glades region and contributing significantly to the educational heritage of Palm Beach County; and

**WHEREAS**, although the original structure no longer stands, its legacy endures, and the site where East Lake High School once stood is now home to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Station 72, a facility that continues the tradition of public service and community care on ground that holds deep historical and emotional significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Pahokee is committed to preserving and honoring the memory of East Lake High School, whose influence and legacy remain a source of pride and purpose for generations past, present, and future.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor of the City of Pahokee, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission and our citizens, do hereby recognize and honor the lasting legacy of **East Lake High School**, and formally acknowledge the continued service of the site through **Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Station 72**, as a place where the spirit of dedication to community lives on.

**In official recognition whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Pahokee to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2025.**



*Keith W. Babb, Jr.*

Mayor Keith W. Babb, Jr.

*Derrick Boldin*

Commissioner Derrick Boldin

*Sanquetta Cowan-Williams*

Commissioner Sanquetta Cowan-Williams

*Everett D. McPherson, Sr.*

Commissioner Everett D. McPherson, Sr

*James H. Scott*

Commissioner James H. Scott