



**BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT  
A PROCLAMATION  
IN RECOGNITION of “THE WEEPING TIMES”**

**WHEREAS,** On March 2, 1859, Pierce and John Butler claimed a fortune of approximately \$700,000, which would have been roughly \$20 million in modern times. The Butler Brothers would go on to coordinate one of the most somber moments in American history, and

**WHEREAS,** On a rainy day at the Ten Broeck Race Course, located on the outskirts of Savannah, 436 slaves would be brought to the horse stables and sold over a two day period, and

**WHEREAS,** This would be labeled as the great slave auction by the news at the time, an “The Weeping Times” by those of African American decent, as well as those who were enslaved at the time, and

**WHEREAS,** This would be considered “The Weeping Times” from the slaves who were to be sold that also corresponded with the rain that lasted from the moment the slaves were brought in until the last was sold, as if “the Lord” was crying himself, and

**WHEREAS,** This proclamation is made in the memory of those slaves who were sold, and as a reminder that we must all remember our history and commit ourselves to progress to ensure that no such tragedy happens again.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I DANA WILLIAMS, Mayor of the Town of Thunderbolt, do hereby proclaim March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 as The Weeping Times Remembrance in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be officiated thus 12<sup>th</sup> of March in the year 2025.

**Given under my hand  
This 12<sup>th</sup> day of March  
2025**

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**Mayor Dana Williams**