City of WHITEWATER

Proclamation

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is an opportunity to learn about the rich cultures, histories, and contemporary issues facing Native American and Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, the observation began in 1986 to have a day to honor Native Americans as a recognition of American Indian Week by President Ronald Reagan, but was expanded by President George W. Bush in 1990 as proclaiming November to be National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month calling upon Federal, State and local Governments, groups and organizations and the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 U.S. Census estimates that slightly over 1% of Whitewater's population are American Indian and Alaska Native residents; and

WHEREAS, .11% of the students in the Whitewater Unified School District identify as American Indian and Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, .3% of the students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Whitewater, Wisconsin, identify as American Indian and Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater joins the rest of the nation in recognizing the unique and vital role in our economy, workforce, education, and faith communities these American Indian and Alaska Native residents contribute.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John Weidl, City Manager for the City of Whitewater, Wisconsin** proclaims the month of November 2026 as National Native American Heritage Month in the City of Whitewater and encourages residents to observe this month. Presented this 5th day of November 2026.

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John Weidl, City Manager of Whitewater