City of WHITEWATER

PROCLAMATION

International Day for Tolerance

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1995, the member states of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, and the United Nations General Assembly thereafter designated November 16 of each year as the International Day for Tolerance; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration recalls the founding call of the United Nations Charter for all peoples to practice tolerance and to live together in peace as good neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration holds that tolerance means more than putting up with difference. It is the active respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the full diversity of human cultures, expression, and ways of life, sustained by openness, honest communication, and freedom of conscience and belief; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration affirms that tolerance does not ask anyone to abandon their own convictions. It asks each person to hold their beliefs freely, to accept that others hold theirs, and to refrain from imposing their views on others; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration recognizes that people, diverse by nature, have "the right to live in peace and to be as they are"; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration warns that intolerance often appears as the marginalization of people and their exclusion from social and civic participation, and it calls on governments to administer their affairs fairly and impartially and to extend equal opportunity to every person; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater's Mission is to provide efficient and high-quality services which support living, learning, working, and playing in an exceptional community; and

WHEREAS, the City's Vision commits Whitewater to remain a welcoming, safe, and dynamic community that embraces the opportunities offered by a thriving University and an increasingly diverse population, and to foster a spirit of openness and fairness that encourages individuals to participate publicly and prosper personally; and

WHEREAS Whitewater's strength has always rested on residents who, whatever their differences, recognize one another as neighbors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John S. Weidl, City Manager of the City of Whitewater, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2026, as INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE in the City of Whitewater. I affirm that every resident, of every background, belief, and way of life, belongs in Whitewater and is welcome to take part fully in its public life. I encourage all who live, learn, work, and play here to meet one another with dignity, respect, and good faith, and to be good neighbors to one another.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2026



John S. Weidl, City Manager