**Michigan Library Month October 2020**

Proclamation

Whereas, The Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually designates the month of October as a statewide observance to celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians and library staff;

Whereas, Michigan's libraries, including school, public, academic, tribal, and special libraries, are vital institutions and dynamic centers of discovery, lifelong learning, and serve as cornerstones in healthy communities;

Whereas, librarians and library workers play key roles in helping people explore, imagine and discover new horizons in the vast world of information, knowledge and entertainment;

Whereas**,** today’s libraries are less about what they have on the shelves and more about what they can do with and for their communities, whether it’s through virtual services or in-person visits;

Whereas, libraries and librarians work to create an equitable society by providing free access to accurate information to all people;

Whereas, in times of crisis, libraries and library staff play a critical role in continuing to support their communities when they need it the most;

Whereas, libraries bring together diverse populations and are a resource for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status;

Whereas, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve;

Whereas, libraries serve as a vital connection to the people, places and ideas of the world through books, magazines, videos and the Internet and are the primary point of online access for people without computers at home, school or work;

Whereas, libraries provide indispensable educational resources for children and teenagers, and are on the front lines in the battle against illiteracy, offer plenty of free activities, as well as safe, enriching entertainment for the whole family;

Whereas, one-half of all Michiganders hold library cards and they visit their local libraries in-person more than 43 million times annually, virtually nearly 50 million times annually, and borrow nearly 40 million items each year;

Whereas, hundreds of libraries and millions of library supporters across Michigan are celebrating Michigan Library Appreciation Month this October; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that I, [name, title of official] proclaim October 2020 as Michigan Library Appreciation Month. During this time, I encourage all residents to visit their library’s website and explore and discover the wide variety of services, resources and collections their library provides.