



WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Proclamation
Recognizing April 2020 as
the Centennial Anniversary Month of the
Kiwanis Club of Raleigh

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners, recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh and

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International was founded as one of the nation's first service organizations in Detroit, Michigan on January 21, 1915, as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful friendships and work to improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, following an exploratory meeting of 16 Raleigh businessmen on December 5, 1919, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh was organized and held its first meeting on January 3, 1920 with 124 charter members, the fifth Kiwanis club founded in the state of North Carolina, and received its charter on April 8, 1920; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh today at 220 members is the sixth largest of more than 7,300 Kiwanis clubs in 80 countries and geographic areas around the world with a total of 200,000 members; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh and its Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation to date have provided nearly \$1.4 million in financial support to more than 100 local and global charitable endeavors, benefitting those most in need, including underwriting and constructing a Habitat for Humanity home in southeast Raleigh in 1997, supporting the founding and continuing growth of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County, supplying shoes to the County's foster children for over 40 years, helping serve lunch at the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen for the past 45 years, supplying dictionaries to 3rd and 4th grade students in Wake County schools, and conducting annual food drives for Urban Ministries and diaper drives for the Diaper Train; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate its 100th anniversary, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh has underwritten \$418,800 of the cost to the City of Raleigh of constructing the new Sassafras All-Children Playground at Laurel Hills Park that opened in November 2016 and completely renewing Kiwanis Park, whose original development in 1956 resulted from a partnership between the Club and the City, that reopened in November 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim **April 2020** as **KIWANIS CLUB OF RALEIGH CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY MONTH** and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to recognize this organization and its continued contribution to Wake County for 100 years.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of March 2020.

Gregory D. Ford, Chairman
Wake County Board of Commissioners