



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, JANUARY 16, 2025, IS RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY, A DAY TO CELEBRATE AND REAFFIRM THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL CITIZENS; AND

WHEREAS, RELIGION HAS ITS GREATEST IMPACT NOT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL BUT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, WHERE PEOPLE OF FAITH LIVE BY THEIR CONVICTIONS AND SERVE AND BLESS OTHERS ON A ONE-ON-ONE BASIS, FOSTERING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND MUTUAL SUPPORT; AND

WHEREAS, RELIGION BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING A MORAL COMPASS, FOSTERING LOVE, AND OFFERING STRENGTH DURING LOSS; FOR DECADES, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE OF FAITH HAVE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OUR CITY THROUGH CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES, AIDING THE NEEDY, COMFORTING THOSE IN LOSS, AND ENCOURAGING US TO HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO FREELY EXERCISE THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITH OR NONRELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE WITHOUT BEING DEPRIVED OF OTHER RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES; AND

WHEREAS, WE ALL BENEFIT FROM A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY WHERE RESIDENTS OF ALL BELIEFS WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD WHILE HOLDING DIVERGENT VIEWPOINTS, AND WHERE ALL CITIZENS ARE FREE TO EXERCISE SUCH INFLUENCE AS THEIR IDEAS AND VALUES MAY ENGENDER; AND

WHEREAS, CHARLOTTE WELCOMES AND PROTECTS PEOPLE OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS BY ALLOWING THEM TO FREELY LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEPLY HELD CONVICTIONS AS PROTECTED BY LAW; AND

WHEREAS, CHARLOTTE ENCOURAGES ALL RESIDENTS TO STRIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE EXPERIENCES AND CONCERNS OF OTHERS WHILE SUPPORTING THE ESSENTIAL ROLE RELIGION PLAYS IN PROTECTING HUMAN DIGNITY, STRENGTHENING SOCIETY, AND FOSTERING A CULTURE OF TOLERANCE AND PEACE.

NOW THEREFORE, I, VI LYLES, MAYOR OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
DO HEREBY PROCLAIM JANUARY 16, 2025 AS

Religious Freedom Day