

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, December 21, 2023 marks the first day of winter and is the longest night of the year; and

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2023 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, thousands across the country and an average of at least 10 or more in Columbia die each year without stable housing; and

WHEREAS, living unsheltered continues to be a serious challenge for hundreds of Columbia residents in need of adequate food, housing, clothing, safety, and health care along with dignity, respect, and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, our unhoused neighbors are fellow citizens of our beloved city and their lives have dignity, worth, and meaning; and

WHEREAS, housing is a basic human need and living unsheltered raises one's risk of illness, injury, and death; and

WHEREAS, by joining together and remembering our neighbors, we can honor their lives and continue working to provide solutions to end homelessness within the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of the City of Columbia, Missouri do hereby proclaim Thursday, December 21, 2023 as

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

in the City of Columbia, Missouri, and urge all community members to remember those who have died while experiencing homelessness and to come together to celebrate their memory and address the factors that lead to homelessness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the seal of the City of Columbia, this 21st day of December, 2023.

Barbara Buffaloe

Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheela Amin

Sheela Amin, City Clerk

