



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

In 1940 Franklyn D. Roosevelt was President of the United States, the United States held the first peace time draft, the first Captain America comic book was published, Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American actor to win an Oscar, the average cost of a house was \$3,920.00, a loaf of bread \$0.10, a gallon of gas \$.11, and Willie D Thompson, was born on June 21st in Greenwood, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS:

Ms. Thompson moved to Lima in 1946 at the age of 6. She went to both Perry and Shawnee schools and completed her Associate's degree in Business Administration from Northwestern Business College/UNOH. With her degree in hand she went to an employment service to get a secretarial job, the only job the employment service offered her was as the babysitter for the receptionist at the employment agency which she promptly turned down; and

WHEREAS:

This experience along with the memories and stories she heard from her parents, who picked cotton when they lived in Mississippi, created a passion to be a leader of change. She worked and retired from the Office of Equal Opportunity for the State of Ohio. The purpose of her job was to ensure that the Ohio Department of Transportation was in full compliance with all related federal and state non-discrimination laws. She also was a member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Resource Identification Committee for the Locomotive Works Heritage Center Planning Project. Ms. Thompson was the African American History Program Coordinator for the Brotherhood of Fellowship Union and a consultant for the Lender's Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS:

Ms. Thompson taught her only daughter, Deborah the importance of working to make the community better. She was the founder and president of the Northwest Perry Township Revitalization Group. In this role she gathered volunteers, mailed letters, knocked on doors to create positive change in Perry Township. She had street lights installed, cleaned up the community and made an area for kids to play basketball at the shelter house. She served as a member on the Mayor's Taskforce on Housing, Mayor's Minority Caucus, Project Inroads, Fair Housing Center Board, Council of Neighborhood Groups, Mayor's Goal Development Committee and was a tutor for the Literacy Council of Northwest Ohio. Ms. Thompson also received the 1997 Neighborhood Enrichment Award.

NOW THEREFORE:

I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby Proclaim Sunday, June 21st as

Willie D Thompson Day

in the City of Lima, Ohio and ask all citizens to join me along with her family and friends in extending their sincere best wishes to Ms. Thompson for a very happy 80th birthday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 21st day of June, 2020.

DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

