



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

In February 2014, President Obama unveiled "My Brother's Keeper," a bold initiative to close the opportunity gaps and address the challenges faced by boys and young men of color; and

WHEREAS: When addressing the need for this effort, President Obama stated in his announcement: "Fifty years after Dr. King talked about his dream for America's children, the stubborn fact is that the life chances for the average black and brown child in this country lags behind by almost every measure and is worse for boys and young men"; and

WHEREAS: Since the initial rollout, nearly 250 communities, including many cities throughout Ohio, accepted the call to action by launching local-based initiatives. MBK Ohio was launched in October 2018 through a partnership with The Ohio State University and the Office of Senator Sherrod Brown. My Brother's Keeper, Lima Chapter was launched in 2020 in partnership with the Bradfield Center Community Association; and

WHEREAS: Under the brand name BRAG or Brothers Repairing a Generation, MBK Lima has served over 200 black males focusing on its mission which is to "instill, promote, and restore a positive racial identity, improve self-esteem, and build resilience and confidence in black boys and young men of color"; and

WHEREAS: This weekend's theme: HISstory/HERstory: The Resilience of Black Youth furthers that mission building on the seven traditional Afrocentric Principles of Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. As Fredrick Douglas once said, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." MBA Lima builds relationships with a diverse group of men of color to serve as JENGAs, which is Afrocentric for Mentor to carry out its mission.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim March 4th thru March 6th as

My Brother's Keeper Weekend

in the City of Lima, Ohio and encourage all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this initiative in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 4th day of March, 2022.

**SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO**

