

WHEREAS, the first Monday in March, has been designated as COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is an illness caused by a virus that can transmit from person to person and has spread across the world, creating a global pandemic that is having catastrophic effects on human life, our community, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, observance of public health orders to social distance and stay at home have created challenges for small businesses, workers, and schools which are working to comply with limited resources; and

WHEREAS, School districts, teachers, students, and parents are grappling with the challenges of distance learning and working to prevent any potential learning loss due to not being in-person; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of adequate federal guidance, local and state governments, health departments, and public servants have taken bold actions to protect residents, support struggling local economies, and find innovative ways to provide services; and

WHEREAS, In response to rapid spread of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders, essential workers have stepped up to provide critical services to help protect our communities and save lives, sacrificing their own health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on low-income communities and communities of color, exacerbating inequities already prevalent in our systems that we must address as a nation; and

WHEREAS, The symptoms and severity of COVID-19 can vary dramatically by individual and the long-term health implications for survivors is largely unknown, as many survivors suffer with lingering side-effects of the disease long after they no longer test positive; and

WHEREAS, More than 2.44 Million people worldwide and 493,000 in the United States have lost their lives due to COVID-19, and, in Missouri alone, more than 8,087 lives have been lost to this deadly virus; and

WHEREAS, Each life lost to COVID-19 mattered and leaves a hole in the hearts of loved ones, family members, and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Public health guidance and policies targeted at prevention, such as social distancing, wearing masks in public, and staying home help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, prevent illness, and lessen the burden on individuals and society,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eileen N. Weir, Mayor of the City of Independence, Missouri and the United States Conference of Mayors supports the designation of the first Monday in March as “COVID-19 Memorial Day”, in remembrance of those who have lost their lives and in honor of those who continue to suffer from the impact of this virus,

and call upon the people of Independence to continue taking preventative measures such as social distancing and following public health orders to mitigate spread of this virus, in tribute to essential workers and those who rose in service to protect the public.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Independence, Missouri, to be affixed this 1st day of March 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK