

Proclamation

BE IT PROCLAIMED:

WHEREAS, James T. Henry, Sr., born on September 20, 1910, was one of ten candidates when he first ran for election to City Commission in November 1953; and

WHEREAS, desegregation did not occur in Xenia until around 1962, which makes it significant that of the ten candidates on the ballot in 1953, Mr. Henry, an African American, received the third highest number of votes (1,228) and earned one of three available positions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry's first term began on January 1, 1954, and he went on to serve seven consecutive four-year terms—a total of 28 years—on City Commission through December 31, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's position was not an elected position until 1978, and Mr. Henry was nominated and voted unanimously as Mayor by his fellow constituents at the beginning of his 16th year in office on January 9, 1969, becoming the first African American to serve as Mayor of Xenia, and the night he was chosen as Mayor, he said, "*Men can learn to respect people because of their abilities, aspirations, productivity, and sense of morality*"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as Mayor from 1969-1972, inclusive, Mr. Henry was also nominated and voted by his fellow constituents to serve as Commission Vice President (1960, 1962, 1968), Commission President (1963, 1964, 1979), and Commission Vice President/Deputy Mayor (1976, 1977), and he quickly became known as "Mr. Xenia"; and

WHEREAS, the Xenia City Council passed Resolution 2020-Q on July 9, 2020, to dedicate the Roundabout located at the intersection of E. Church Street and N. Columbus Street as the "James T. Henry Sr. Circle."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sarah J. Mays, Mayor of the City of Xenia, Ohio, do hereby proclaim, Friday, October 22, 2021, as

"James T. Henry, Sr., Day"

in the presence of his family, friends, and fellow dignitaries as this monument is dedicated at the James T. Henry Sr. Circle, which serves as an excellent representation of the public amenities and quality of life enhancements that Mr. Henry worked tirelessly to promote on behalf of Xenia residents and businesses.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Xenia, Ohio, to be affixed this 22nd day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.


Sarah J. Mays

Honorable Mayor of Xenia, Ohio

