

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF

DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, *Assyrians are a transnational ethnic group indigenous to parts of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria. They form a distinctive community, united through ethnicity, language, and culture; and*

WHEREAS, *the United States is home to more than 600,000 Assyrian Americans, with about 100,000 living in the Chicagoland area, according to the Assyrian Universal Alliance Foundation; and*

WHEREAS, *the first day of April is celebrated annually as the Assyrian New Year, also known as 'Akitu' and commonly referred to as 'Kha b-Nisan.'; and*

WHEREAS, *the Assyrian New Year is not only the first day of the new year but also marks the start of spring and serves as a symbol of revival; and*

WHEREAS, *the Assyrian New Year serves to remind the residents of Des Plaines of the many substantial contributions the Assyrian community has made to the social fabric of our city; and*

WHEREAS, *it is imperative that members of the Assyrian community across the globe feel seen, valued, and encouraged to celebrate and preserve their cultural heritage.*

Now, therefore, I, ANDREW GOCZKOWSKI, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES PLAINES, do hereby proclaim the first day of April as

ASSYRIAN NEW YEAR

Dated this 3rd day of April 2023.



Andrew Goczkowski, Mayor