Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Lawrence, Kansas

WHEREAS: In this unprecedented time of a pandemic and economic upheaval, as we keep close to our hearts and minds the deep pain and suffering of those who are ill or who have lost loved ones, the sacrifices of all health care, public service, food and grocery service, and other essential workers, and the devotion of individuals and families taking care of each other, we pause and also recognize the caring tradition of Earth Week; and

WHEREAS: This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the first Earth Day, when millions of Americans took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet; and in the years since, Lawrence government, organizations, businesses, and residents have celebrated and echoed this appreciation and call to action; and

WHEREAS: We are all stewards and beneficiaries of the Earth, and its healthy and diverse ecosystem is vital to a thriving community, a vigorous local economy, and a sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS: We recognize that the conditions that allow the COVID-19 pandemic to be as harmful and terrifying as it is are the same conditions that allow for ecological collapse and climate change. The people who are most vulnerable in these times are the same people who get hit first and worst by the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS: We must use creativity, innovation, and education to solve these problems, with local communities leading the way by embedding equity, encouraging sustainable energy and water use, sustainable land use and transportation, and waste reduction, reuse and recycling practices; and Earth Week offers people an opportunity to make, renew, and celebrate commitments that will protect quality of life and the Earth for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jennifer Ananda, Mayor of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, do hereby proclaim April 18-25, 2020 to be

“Earth Week”

and encourage everyone to explore the various ways to take action at lawrenceks.org/earth-day

Jennifer Ananda, Mayor

April 21, 2020