

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

PROCLAMATION

Kelli Bourgeois Day, April 13, 2023

WHEREAS, Kelli Bourgeois will be leaving the role of Columbia Heights City Manager on April 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Kelli replaced former City Manager Walter Fehst on January 2, 2019, marking the first time in 22 years that Columbia Heights had a new City Manager, and the first ever female City Manager; and

WHEREAS, Kelli has been with Columbia Heights since 2014. Prior to taking over the city manager position, she was human resources director and assistant city manager. Previously, she was a community development director, assistant city administrator, and city planner for the City of Becker, and senior planner for the South Eastern Council of Governments. Her career in local government has spanned 27 years; and

WHEREAS, Kelli was highly involved in the City's successful campaign to be named a 2016 All-America City by the National Civic League; and

WHEREAS, in her first year as City Manager, Kelli helped secure the approval of a new city hall at 40th and Central, and has since overseen planning and development of that facility, which is set to open just six weeks after Kelli's last day; and

WHEREAS, Kelli saw the City through the 2020-2021 Covid-19 pandemic and civil unrest. She worked closely with emergency management at the City, as well as public safety professionals in Anoka County and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, to provide valuable input and leadership for many public safety initiatives that police and fire faced over several tumultuous years; and

WHEREAS, Kelli has a significant background in mediation that has helped tremendously in handling delicate issues including, but not limited to, contract negotiations, workplace grievances, and complex community development initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Kelli oversaw the City's 100th anniversary celebrations in 2021 and worked with staff to significantly expand the City's events and community engagement efforts; and

WHEREAS, Kelli has helped create and maintain a culture of respect and dignity within the organization; and

WHEREAS, her presence and leadership will be missed by staff and community members alike; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this Certificate of Recognition to Kelli Bourgeois on the occasion of her final official Columbia Heights City Council meeting as the Columbia Heights' City Manager. I proclaim her last day on the job, April 13, 2023, as Kelli Bourgeois Day in the City of Columbia Heights, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor

April 10, 2023