



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** on February 11, 1874, the North Carolina General Assembly passed “An Act to Incorporate the Town of Sanford” in then-Moore County, North Carolina, with the incorporation taking full effect following election of a town council and mayor on April 1, 1874; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sanford was founded as one square mile and was home to approximately 200 residents, and was named for Charles Ogburn Sanford, the chief civil engineer of the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad, who designed the route and supervised construction of the railroad to Sanford; and
- WHEREAS,** the residents of the Town of Sanford and the nearby Town of Jonesboro were so industrious that, by 1907, the combined population had grown over tenfold, leading the General Assembly to create Lee County, carved from Moore and Chatham counties, to allow for a governmental seat convenient for the residents and therefore placed a courthouse between the towns equidistant to each of their railroad depots; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Sanford shared many of its services with Jonesboro, including water, sewer, and fire coverage, which led the towns to consolidate their municipal governments in “the best interests of all the people of said towns” and brought the county courthouse into the city limits; and
- WHEREAS,** an amended municipal charter for the merged towns was signed on March 5, 1947, and went into effect on July 1, 1947, with the name remaining “Town of Sanford” until the General Assembly further amended the charter to change the name to the “City of Sanford,” effective March 28, 1951; and
- WHEREAS,** while Sanford’s commercial and industrial origins were in naval stores, lumber, iron works, and coal, by 1950, the city was a major supplier of bricks and was known as the Brick Capital of the United States for many decades, and more recently has become known as a hub for advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and entrepreneurialism; and
- WHEREAS,** Sanford’s hallmark is strong, visionary leadership – leaders who are willing to confront challenges and to invest in public projects and civic efforts that push the community forward for the benefit of all, including far-sighted infrastructure capabilities; functional consolidation of local government; adaptive reuse of



community property and historic buildings; careful, strategic planning for growth and future transportation assets; as well as the creation of innovative public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, from its beginning to the present day, Sanford has been shaped by people from all backgrounds and beliefs – from the 1880 census records showing 126 white residents and 110 African American residents to the 2020 census that shows 31,224 people of diverse races and ethnicities – with all residents contributing to the city’s rich history, current success, and vibrant future; and

WHEREAS, 2024 marks Sanford’s sesquicentennial year and provides its residents the opportunity to reflect on our common experiences and goals, to share and engage in our vision for the city’s future, and to remember our history – including periods of profound societal and cultural change – so that we can bolster our understanding and appreciation of our city and the contributions of its residents; and

WHEREAS, community members and all organizations are invited to celebrate Sanford’s 150th anniversary by participating in the many opportunities offered this year to memorialize, share, and add to the history of Sanford, and are encouraged to plan their own special events or activities to commemorate this momentous year, which can be shared on our sesquicentennial website at www.sanford150.com;

NOW,
THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sanford, I, Rebecca Wyhof Salmon, do hereby proclaim February 11, 2024 through February 11, 2025 as Sanford’s Sesquicentennial Year and urge all residents, businesses, organizations, and community members to come together to recognize, appreciate, and build upon our community’s story of hard work, dedication, and resilience, honoring those who have contributed to our current prosperity and quality of life and the well-centered character that defines the city of Sanford.

In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Sanford to be affixed this 6th day of February, 2024.

REBECCA WYHOF SALMON, MAYOR