



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, literacy is not just an education issue. It is an economic, workforce, and quality of life issue; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children who can't read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to experience poor health, have discipline problems, and drop out of high school; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States, low literacy levels are linked to hundreds of billions of dollars in non-productivity, healthcare, and judicial costs; and

WHEREAS, 74% of Georgia fourth graders do not read proficiently; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships must be undertaken to address literacy issues; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Reading Club program is offered through Georgia City Solutions, a Georgia Municipal Association nonprofit; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the program is to improve literacy skills and overall success with early reading among children and youth in Georgia cities through encouragement, support, and leadership from city mayors; and

WHEREAS, Georgia City Solutions has commissioned a children's book series to use as part of the program to teach young readers about local government and a copy of the first book in the series titled, *Georgia Caroline Visits City Hall*, is provided in the program starter-kit; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Reading Club is flexible and can be delivered in person or virtually and promotes partnerships and collaboration between the city, county, schools, public libraries, local nonprofits, and business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brandon Hembree, Mayor of the City of Sugar Hill, do hereby join the Mayor's Reading Club program and proclaim September 13, 2022 as:

"MAYOR'S READING CLUB DAY"

in Sugar Hill, Georgia and encourage all residents, businesses, and community partners to help promote and elevate literacy as a community priority and support the Mayor's Reading Club to improve Georgia's economic vitality one book at a time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of September, 2022.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor