

***WHEREAS,*** historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

***WHEREAS,*** the City of Urbana has a historic preservation plan and currently has designated 18 local historic landmarks and 3 historic districts; and

***WHEREAS,*** historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

***WHEREAS,*** it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

***WHEREAS,*** through the hard work of Dan Maloney, owner of the Nat Cohen Building, Alice Novak, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, and her Historic Preservation planning class, and city planning staff, the Downtown Urbana Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 27, 2019, recognized for both its historical and governmental importance, and its architectural character; and

***WHEREAS,*** this new Historic District encompasses seven city blocks, bounded by Illinois, Walnut, Water, Goose Alley, and Cedar Streets, and includes 41 contributing resources – three of which are also locally-designated landmarks including the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel, Busey’s Hall, Tiernan’s Block – and 4 non-contributing resources; and

***WHEREAS,*** this May, in light of the ongoing situation regarding safe social interaction, the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission is promoting the enjoyment of our local historic resources through self-guided and virtual resources, including a new Self-Guided Walking Tour of

the Downtown Urbana Historic District, in observance of National Historic Preservation Month,

***NOW, THEREFORE, I,***

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor of the City of Urbana, Illinois, do proclaim May 2020, as National Historic Preservation Month, and call upon the people of Urbana to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.