Proclamation Celebrating
Shannon Porter's 10th Anniversary with Mercy House, Inc.

WHEREAS, Shannon Porter has served as Executive Director of Mercy House Inc. since 2014, leveraging his background in education and non-profit leadership to expand the agency's shelter and housing services. Under his tenure, Mercy House has addressed systemic gaps in housing services by enhancing shelter facilities to prioritize client dignity and increasing bed capacity to accommodate larger families; and

WHEREAS, Shannon restructured the Centralized Housing Intake program, broadening its reach across six counties and two cities, significantly improving accessibility and efficiency for individuals in need of housing services. His advocacy in addressing the housing crisis has engaged stakeholders including universities, City Council, and local landlords to promote affordable housing solutions in meaningful ways; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon spearheaded Mercy House's motel program for medically vulnerable individuals that housed nearly 60 people and partnered with other local organizations to provide comprehensive case management and support. He worked with James Madison University and City Council to establish emergency shelter solutions while expanding Mercy House's staff and landlord relationships to address urgent rehousing needs; and

WHEREAS, Shannon played a key role in advocating for and guiding the creation of Harrisonburg's year-round Navigation Center, which provides wrap-around services like healthcare, education, and job training. He has ensured Mercy House's programs integrate seamlessly into the new center and expanded services such as on-site housing counseling to create trauma-informed, collaborative care for vulnerable individuals; and

WHEREAS, Shannon has been a driving force behind initiatives such as establishing a Housing Trust Fund and advocating for affordable housing projects like Bluestone Town Center. Recognized for his servant leadership, he has received awards and served on panels to advance housing equity while empowering his team at Mercy House to advocate effectively for systemic change;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Deanna Reed, as Mayor of the City of Harrisonburg, do hereby proclaim our sincerest appreciation and recognition for the outstanding contributions of Shannon Porter to the City of Harrisonburg and commit to further his legacy of lifting up vulnerable members of our community.

GIVEN under my hand this 25 day February 19, 2025.

BY: Deanna R. Reed
Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: Pamela Ulmer
Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk