

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Chanukah celebrates the victory in the year 165 BCE of a small yet determined army of Maccabees against their Syrian-Greek oppressors, and Chanukah has come to represent the victory of right over might, light over darkness, and freedom over oppression; and

**WHEREAS**, Chanukah, known as the Festival of Lights, is among the most widely celebrated of the Jewish holidays and is a time for joyous family gatherings and the kindling of the Menorah; and

**WHEREAS**, the central tenet of Chanukah is to publicize and celebrate the miracle that occurred over 2,000 years ago in the Maccabees' heroic battle to preserve their religious liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, the message of Chanukah resonates powerfully with the fundamental values of American life and culture and the great principles of equality and religious freedom upon which was founded this great nation; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's celebration comes as so many will be isolated at home amid these difficult times and with the recognition of the crucial need for a message of hope and healing, and

**WHEREAS**, centers of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in the Virginia Commonwealth have initiated a series of safe events, as a part of the worldwide Chanukah campaign launched in 1973 by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory to highlight the enduring message of Chanukah and its message of religious freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, events in the City of Williamsburg occur during the Chanukah festival, coinciding this year from December 7-14, 2023.

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Douglas G. Pons, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the City of Williamsburg, do hereby proclaim December 7th, 2023 as

### **Menorah Illumination Day**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Williamsburg, Virginia, to be affixed, this Seventh day of December, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

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Douglas G. Pons, Mayor