

roclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, *Willow Newell*, a proud native of Racine, Wisconsin, has made history as the first African American woman to be crowned Miss Wisconsin, breaking barriers and inspiring generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Willow's journey—from practicing her pageant wave in the mirror as a child to dazzling audiences with her vocal talent and poise—has been marked by perseverance, grace, and a deep commitment to authenticity and service; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Carthage College with a degree in musical theater, Willow has used her gifts to uplift others, performing in local theater, mentoring youth, and championing her Community Service Initiative, “The ART of Belonging,” which promotes inclusion and healing through the arts; and

WHEREAS, Willow will represent the State of Wisconsin and the City of Racine at the Miss America competition in Orlando, Florida, from September 2–7, 2025, carrying with her the pride, spirit, and support of our entire community; and

WHEREAS, her historic achievement serves as a beacon of hope and representation for young women across Wisconsin—particularly young women of color—demonstrating that hard work, resilience, and self-belief can open doors to extraordinary opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the people of Racine recognize the significance of this moment, not only for Willow, but for the history of our city and state, and wish to celebrate her achievements, encourage her on the national stage, and honor her legacy in the making.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, do hereby proclaim ***Sunday, September 7, 2025***, as ***WILLOW NEWELL DAY*** in the City of Racine, and I encourage all residents to join me in celebrating this remarkable young woman, supporting her journey, and honoring the pride she brings to our city, our state, and the Miss America stage.

Accomplished at the City Hall

this 2nd day of September 2025.

Mayor