## A PROCLAMATION By the Mayor of the City of Dalworthington Gardens

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic North American species whose multigenerational migration from Mexico to Canada and back again and metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has captured the imagination of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the annual survey conducted in central Mexico's forests revealed a concerning 59% decrease in the eastern monarch butterfly population during the 2023-2024 winter season; and

WHEREAS, climatic variations in breeding areas in Canada and the United States, result in reduced milkweed abundance due to high temperatures and drought, alongside land-use changes and herbicide use impacting essential nectar plants for adult monarchs.; and

WHEREAS, experts attribute this winter's low numbers to drought conditions that reduced nectar production crucial for migration and winter survival.; and

WHEREAS, every citizen of Dalworthington Gardens can aid the monarchs' recovery by planting native, drought tolerant, nectar producing native plants; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the people of Dalworthington Gardens, I am honored as Mayor to lead the way by signing the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge; and I encourage other city officials across our great nation to take a stand with me so that the monarch butterfly will once again flourish across the continent.

**THEREFORE**, as Mayor, I encourage our citizens and staff to participate in the following action items:

- 1) Issue this Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
- 2) Maintain a public communication effort to encourage citizens to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation.
- 4) Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 5) Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 6) Maintain and improve the monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden in Gardens Park by the gazebo.
- Support citizen science efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 8) Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Dalworthington Gardens, Texas, to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Laura Bianco

ATTEST: Mayor, City of Dalwortingotn Gardens

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City Secretary, City of Dalworthington Gardens