



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bill “Tiger” Read began his service as a City Commissioner on January 4, 2016, representing the Northeast District of Lakeland, and was elected to office three times, including two elections without opposition; and

THERE AGAIN, Commissioner Read brought his passions for land stewardship, business, and community service with humor, humility, and a genuine care for people and Florida’s natural environment; and

THERE AGAIN, Commissioner Read previously served the City of Lakeland on the Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals from December 1997 to July 2003 and later served on the Airport Advisory Board from 2021 to 2025; and

THERE AGAIN, throughout his tenure on the City Commission, Commissioner Read consistently demonstrated a steady and thoughtful presence on the dais and earned a reputation as an attentive listener to residents, staff, and fellow elected officials; and

THERE AGAIN, in 2017, Bill Read earned local acclaim for his quick action in rescuing a Labrador retriever from Lake Parker, an act that further reflected his compassion and commitment to the community; and

THERE AGAIN, his casual presence at Utility Committee meetings became an endearing and unofficial symbol of his approachable and grounded leadership, the absence of which will be noted with fond appreciation; and

THERE AGAIN, certain phrases such as “there again,” “how much did we buy that for,” and “can I see a map” have now become legendary Bill-Read-isms that will long echo in City Hall; and

THERE AGAIN, Commissioner Read became well known for his unique approach to inquiry often “questioning the question” prompting thoughtful discussion and, at times, spirited clarification reflecting his commitment to fully understand the issues before the Commission; and

THERE AGAIN, Raydene Read earned the title of Commissioner Pro Tem this past year, and Commissioner Read’s deliberate pauses and trademark smile long ensured each decision received due consideration; and as he now departs the City Commission to begin full-time employment under his wife, Raydene, he does so with the understanding that opportunities to “question the question” may now be fewer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Musick, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Lakeland, together with the Lakeland City Commission, City Staff, and citizens, honor and thank Commissioner Bill “Tiger” Read for his dedicated service and wish him and his family well as he enters the next chapter of his life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Lakeland to be affixed this 5th of January 2026.

**Mike Musick, Mayor Pro Tem
Lakeland, Florida**