



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill Mutz has dedicated himself to the Lakeland community through years of service on Municipal Boards beginning in 2005 and continuing through his tenure as Mayor starting January 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mutz kicked off his 2017 campaign for mayor by falling off his hoverboard to secure the sympathy vote; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mutz has used his effervescent personality, warmth and sincerity to serve all people while encouraging and heightening our awareness to see the good in others, embrace their gifts and elevate their confidences to be highly engaged and loving neighbors to one another; and

WHEREAS, his willingness to hear all sides of an issue has strengthened public dialogue and supported collaborative decision-making throughout his service; and

WHEREAS, after his final two meetings averaged over 7 hours, some among City staff could be heard grumbling that the Mayor was perhaps a little too willing to hear all sides of an issue and that his gavel had retired before he did; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mutz was known for his distinctive insistence on signing official documents with green ink, a personal touch he maintained consistently throughout his tenure, even standing firm with the FAA; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mutz was equally recognized for his thorough and meticulously crafted proclamations, which often set records for length and detail, reflecting his dedication to honoring community achievements and preserving the significance of civic recognition; and

WHEREAS, he has supported the Lakeland Police Department with unwavering encouragement, showing up to community events where the only guarantees were heat and humidity; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mutz stood beside LPD throughout the long, winding, occasionally headache-inducing journey of purchasing and implementing body cameras patiently enduring demonstrations, cost breakdowns, and at least one incident involving 14 minutes of high-definition footage of an officer's shoes; and

WHEREAS, after eight legendary years of leading the city with charm and calm, Mayor Bill Mutz now takes on his toughest role yet: full-time hype man for his wife's world book tour, cheering and pom-poms optional.

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 Mayor Bill Mutz 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**