



# PROCLAMATION

## BOROUGH OF RED BANK

### JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

**Whereas**, Jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspiration of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

**Whereas**, Jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists, ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world and has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

**Whereas**, this April marks the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of the twentieth century's greatest artists, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington; and

**Whereas**, Jazz has spoken eloquently for freedom of people in the United States and abroad and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

**Whereas**, Red Bank has a deep connection to jazz as the birth place of William "Count" Basie, as the home of two non-profit organizations that honor jazz in programming and in education; the Count Basie Theater and Jazz Arts Project, which curates and presents world-class jazz events such as the annual Summer Jazz Café at the Two River Theater, and various music education programs for area youth; and

**Whereas**, the Borough of Red Bank also offers events focusing on Jazz Music with two park series curated and presented by Jazz Arts Project; the annual Jazz in the Park series and the Count Basie 365 concerts held in Johnny "Jazz" Gatta Park; and

**Whereas**, on April 30<sup>th</sup>, Jazz Arts Project will hold Red Bank's International Jazz Day celebration, as a participant in this global event that was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) together with legendary jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock, in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe; and

**Whereas**, the Jazz Arts Project will be honoring founding member and former Councilwoman Kathy Horgan as **Jazz Arts Hero** for 2024 in appreciation for her unwavering support and efforts in the educational component for the Jazz Art Project.

**Now, therefore**, I, William Portman, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank do hereby proclaim April 2024 as Jazz Appreciation Month in the Borough of Red Bank and urge our residents to become involved in a local jazz society, enjoy the arts and music programs offered in our Borough, and to celebrate the Month of April as **Jazz Appreciation Month**.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.



William Portman, Mayor