



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, thousands of individuals experience the tragedy of homelessness in Fort Collins each year, including more than 1,000 students in the Poudre School District, thousands of adults, unaccompanied youth and others. Local data shows that, at any given time, about 350 adults have been homeless in Fort Collins for at least six months; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is a complex community issue that both impacts and is impacted by local, state and federal policies. It can therefore only be solved through systemic changes and interventions that are collaborative, nuanced and locally-supported; and

WHEREAS, people who experience homelessness represent a broad cross-section of our community, and they become homeless for a wide variety of reasons, including lack of affordable housing, unemployment, physical disabilities, substance-use disorders, mental health issues, domestic violence and more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins adopted and actively supports Homeward 2020's and our community's plan to make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring; and a continuum of service providers and key stakeholders works collaboratively—at the city, regional and state levels—to further that plan; and

WHEREAS, the Murphy Center for Hope, operated by Homeward Alliance, is the hub of services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, hosting 20 independent nonprofits that collectively provide 40 unique services to thousands of individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, in its ongoing effort to expand community awareness about the issue of homelessness, promote critical dialogue, inspire solution-oriented action and unite the community—those with housing and those without—the Murphy Center is hosting two events on December 8, 2018: The Mission to Hope Walk and the Murphy Center Community Dinner.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wade Troxell, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby declare December 4, 2018, as

MURPHY CENTER FOR HOPE HOMELESS AWARENESS DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 4th day of December, A.D. 2018.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk