

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 30th, the *2025 Downers Grove Historical Society's Historian of the Year Award* – an award, established in 2013 to honor those who have significantly promoted and preserved the history of Downers Grove – was presented to Ken Lerner; and,

WHEREAS, Ken Lerner, a 30-year resident of Downers Grove, dedicated his long career with Argonne National Laboratory to environmental and utility regulation, technological hazard emergency preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and homeland security; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lerner has volunteered his time and talents to preserve the natural beauty and architectural heritage of Downers Grove by serving as a member, and as Chairperson, of the Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance; and,

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the PDHA became a strong advocate for the Village's sustainability practices, promoted policy changes and helped secure grant funding for environmental projects; and,

WHEREAS, during Mr. Lerner's tenure, the Alliance partnered with the Village of Downers Grove to establish natural areas in public spaces and was recognized with the *2015 Best Community Advocate* by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Ken Lerner also served as a board member of the Friends of Edwards House and during his involvement, advocated for homeowners to landmark their historic properties and, contributed to the revision of the Village's Historic Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lerner helped to build a partnership between the Piece Downer Heritage Alliance and the Greener Grove, adding additional support to the Village's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability; and,

WHEREAS, Ken Lerner has also served the Village through his work on Village boards and commissions, including the Historic Preservation and Design Review Board and, continues to serve as a member of the Environmental Concerns Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, as **Ken Lerner Week** in the Village of Downers Grove, and on behalf of the entire Village, I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Lerner for his outstanding stewardship of environmental sustainability and his dedication to preserving the rich history of our Village.

Dated this 20th day of May 2025, at Downers Grove, Illinois,



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor