

Whereas, the celebration of Kwanzaa, was formulated by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University after the riots of 1966; while searching for ways to create community support amongst African-Americans: and

Whereas, a celebration now known as Kwanzaa or “first fruits” is conducted over Seven Days beginning on the 26th day of December culminating on January 2nd; and

Whereas, Kwanzaa celebrations center on the “Seven Principles or Values” of the African culture. Each Principle created by Dr. Karenga and currently celebrated by families in America today, are: **Umoja** – Unity, **Kujichagulia** – Self-Determination, **Ujima** – Collective Work and Responsibility, **Ujamaa** – Cooperative Economics and **Nia** – Purpose, **Kuumba**-Creativity, and **Imani** – Faith; and

Whereas, the citizens of the City of Maricopa continue to work towards an inclusive and supportive community and continue to showcase and embrace the goodness in the principles of Kwanzaa this further helps our citizens to encourage, recognize and embrace cultural differences with a much deeper respect and appreciation and;

Whereas, achieving cultural understanding and further embracing various cultural expressions and traditions through, song, dance, poetry and even traditional African meals as expressed in the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa, helps to infuse all families with joy and appreciation for mutual life and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Price, Mayor of the City of Maricopa, do Hereby proclaim the week of **December 26, 2021** to **January 1, 2022** as “**Kwanzaa**” in the City of Maricopa, Arizona and encourage all citizens to join together in celebrating the significance of various cultures in Maricopa’s proud history and prosperous future.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2021

Christian Price, Mayor