



# City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

## **Fiftieth Anniversary of Earth Day**

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans took to the streets and college campuses of hundreds of cities throughout our country to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our country and our planet launching what was the first Earth Day and the beginning of the modern environmental movement; and

**WHEREAS**, the first Earth Day launched a wave of action in the United States, including the passage of landmark environmental laws such as the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts, as well as, the signing into law the creation of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by President Richard M. Nixon; and

**WHEREAS**, fifty years following the first Earth Day event our environment and the protection thereof remains at the forefront of public discourse; and

**WHEREAS**, the enormous environmental challenges we face today along with the vast opportunities for action on climate change combine to designate *Climate Action* as the theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is now an international celebration with over one billion participants; and

**WHEREAS**, locally the public health of the City of Auburn, Cayuga County and all of New York State is inextricably linked to environmental conditions, making the goals of Earth Day immediately relevant to current pandemic conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Auburn has long demonstrated and continues to pledge to make measurable positive change towards becoming more sustainable; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's sustainability initiatives include geothermal heating and cooling of the following municipal buildings, Memorial City Hall, the Police and Fire Headquarters, and the Equal Rights Heritage Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and New York State have invested in hydroelectric facilities at the Mill Street Dam and the recently completed N. Division St. Dam, electric vehicle charging stations at the downtown parking garage, as well as, the future installation of solar panels at the City Landfill; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the City was designated a Clean Energy Community by New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day is important to the citizens and businesses of Auburn as a means of reinforcing the importance of responsible stewardship of the earth's resources, demonstrated by several volunteer citizen initiatives that keep the environment at the forefront of local civic action including the Auburn Permaculture Park, the Auburn Beautification Commission, the Grow Auburn's Trees program, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, the Save Owasco Now organization and the public group Cayuga Climate Action; and

**WHEREAS**, on this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the traditional local and international Earth Day public events will instead go digital with an online celebration and call for *Climate Action*, and we encourage all to use and share #EarthDay2020, #ClimateAction, #AuburnEarthDay & #CayugaEarthDay to mark the occasion.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the members of City Council and citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020, as **EARTH DAY** in the City of Auburn, New York and we encourage our citizens to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary by promoting actions towards improved climate and environmental sustainability.

**In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Twenty-second day of April 2020.**

**Michael D. Quill, Mayor**  
City of Auburn, New York