

PROCLAMATION

Honoring the 90th Anniversary of the Egyptian Theatre



December 10, 2019

WHEREAS, the Egyptian Theatre was constructed in 1929 as a shining example of Art Deco architecture with an Egyptian theme inspired by the discovery of King Tut's tomb; and

WHEREAS, the Theatre was designed by Elmer F. Behrns, an architect with the firm Rapp and Rapp who designed such theaters as the Chicago Theater, the Paramount in Aurora and the Rialto in Joliet; and

WHEREAS, six weeks after the Stock Market crash the Egyptian Theatre was opened on December 10, 1929 as a venue for vaudeville entertainment, as well as the showing of movies; and

WHEREAS, the Egyptian Theatre has been host to many famous performers in the past 90 years and seen appearances by Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, when the Egyptian was in danger of demolition due to its deteriorating condition, a group of concerned citizens formed Preservation of Egyptian Theatre (P.E.T.), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to preserve the Theatre and get it placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, P.E.T. volunteers and staff have dedicated countless hours of time and labor to develop the Theatre into an entertainment center that has become a crown jewel of the City of DeKalb and an economic driver for Downtown DeKalb businesses; and

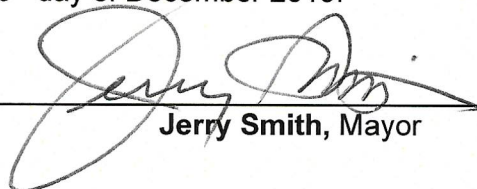
WHEREAS, in 2018 the State of Illinois Office of Tourism named the Egyptian Theatre in the Top 20 Architectural Treasures in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, P.E.T. is proud of the ongoing improvements to the historic theatre made possible with the generous help of community members, organizations, businesses, and the City of DeKalb, and looks forward to a future filled with growth, prosperity, and entertainment for all; now,

THEREFORE, I, Jerry Smith, Mayor of the City of DeKalb, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2019 as **"Egyptian Theatre Day"** in recognition of the Egyptian Theatre's 90th Anniversary in the City of DeKalb, and call upon all citizens to recognize the contributions of many dedicated volunteers and donors for their efforts over the years. I further call upon our citizens to continue attending the Theatre's events and supporting efforts to preserve this unique and historical venue for future generations.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb to be affixed this 9th day of December 2019.



Jerry Smith, Mayor