

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS** Chapel Hill is a community enriched by the voices of poets and storytellers who capture our shared experiences, celebrate our diversity, and inspire us to imagine a more just and compassionate world; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2019, the Town of Chapel Hill established the position of Poet Laureate, creating a meaningful tradition of elevating the literary arts as essential to our civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, our current Poet Laureate, Dr. Donovan Livingston, serves with distinction as an award-winning educator and spoken word poet who uses culture, hip-hop, and the spoken word to ignite change and amplify local youth voices through creative writing and performance, while fostering dialogue around social justice, education equity, and the transformative power of language to uplift and unite our community; and

**WHEREAS**, April is recognized nationally as National Poetry Month, a time to celebrate the art of poetry and recognize poetry's power to build bridges across our differences, give voice to the unheard, and document our shared history; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry enriches our civic and social life, serving as a call to action, a source of healing, and a means of ensuring that every voice in Chapel Hill can be heard and celebrated.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Chapel Hill Mayor and Town Council, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

## Poetry Month

in the Town of Chapel Hill and encourage all residents to celebrate the power of poetry and to honor the poets who preserve our stories and remind us that we are all part of a greater narrative rooted in creativity, compassion, and shared purpose.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean C. Ann".