



## PROCLAMATION HONORING NATIONAL BLACK BOOKSTORE DAY

**WHEREAS**, Black storytellers, scholars, and entrepreneurs have played a pivotal role in shaping American culture by preserving and sharing knowledge through literature; and,

**WHEREAS**, Black-owned bookstores have long served as important spaces for education, cultural expression, civic dialogue, and economic empowerment, helping to amplify Black voices and preserve stories that might otherwise go unheard; and,

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing the importance of Black-owned bookstores affirms the City of Vicksburg's commitment to literacy, cultural preservation, and expanding opportunities to celebrate and elevate Black voices; and,

**WHEREAS**, Georgia "Mother Rose" West, founder of Underground Books in Sacramento, California, inspired the establishment of National Black Bookstore Day, a national observance honoring the legacy and impact of Black-owned bookstores; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Black Bookstores (NAB), founded on Juneteenth in 2025, works to promote literacy, amplify Black voices, and strengthen the sustainability and visibility of Black-owned bookstores across the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** I, Mayor Willis Thompson, on behalf of the City of Vicksburg, MS, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2026 as

### NATIONAL BLACK BOOKSTORE DAY

In Vicksburg MS and encourage residents to celebrate and support Black-owned bookstores and recognize the vital role they play in preserving culture and strengthening communities.

**IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF**, I affix my signature and the Official Seal of the City of Vicksburg, MS for the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of April in the Year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty-six

**Willis Thompson**  
Mayor, City of Vicksburg, MS

