



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, ON DECEMBER 10, 1948, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS PROCLAIMED AND ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS; AND

WHEREAS, THE VISION AND DETERMINATION OF THE DRAFTERS SHAPED A DOCUMENT FRAMING UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE; AND

WHEREAS, NOW AVAILABLE IN MORE THAN 360 LANGUAGES, THE DECLARATION IS THE MOST TRANSLATED DOCUMENT IN THE WORLD – INSPIRING THE CONSTITUTIONS OF MANY NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND MANY NEW DEMOCRACIES. IT IS A YARDSTICK BY WHICH RESPECT FOR HUMANITY IS MEASURED; AND

WHEREAS, THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN OCCASION FOR ALL OF US TO RECOMMIT TO THE VISION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH REMAINS AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS SIXTY YEARS AGO; AND

WHEREAS, THE THEME FOR THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, “**DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL OF US**”, REINFORCES THE VISION OF THE DECLARATION AS A COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL DIGNITY AND JUSTICE, AND NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A LUXURY, TO BE EXPERIENCED BY A FEW.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM DECEMBER 10, 2008, AS:

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

I EXPRESS THE CITY OF DES MOINES' CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO LIVING OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS EIGHTH DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND EIGHT.

**T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES**

