BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MORROW, GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION

RECOGNIZING DR. T. JOEL BYARS

WHEREAS: Dr. Byars pursued his education at the University of Georgia and later graduated from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, establishing a strong academic foundation for a lifetime of professional excellence; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Byars' distinguished career in optometry has included service with the Georgia State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia, the United States Medical Service Corps, and private practice, demonstrating his commitment to public health and patient care; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Byars relocated his practice from Decatur, Georgia, to the City of Morrow, entering into a professional partnership with Dr. Warren C. Thurmond, thereby strengthening access to quality eye care within the Morrow community; and

WHEREAS: Following the retirement of Dr. Thurmond in 1993, Dr. Byars continued his practice in the City of Morrow, where he has faithfully served patients and residents for more than thirty (30) years, becoming a trusted and respected member of the community; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Byars has demonstrated exceptional leadership within his profession, serving as Chairman of the Southern Conference of Optometry Registration Committee for over twenty (20) years, contributing significantly to the advancement and integrity of optometric practice; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of his outstanding achievements and service, Dr. Byars was honored as Georgia Optometrist of the Year in 1978, Optometrist of the South in 1987, and received the President's Award for Distinguished Service to Optometry in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Byars' professional accomplishments, dedication to patient care, and long-standing service reflect great credit upon the City of Morrow and exemplify the highest standards of medical professionalism and community service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John J. Lampl II**, Mayor of the City of Morrow, through its Mayor and Council, do hereby recognize, honor, and commend **Dr. Byars** for his decades of exemplary service to the profession of optometry and for his enduring commitment to the health and well-being of the Morrow community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the City of Morrow extends its sincere gratitude to Dr. Byars and offers best wishes for continued success, good health, and fulfillment in all future endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Morrow to be affixed this 10th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

John J. Lampl II,

Attest: _____
Victor Aguilar, City Clerk