

# CITY OF FRESNO

*Offices of Council President Nelson Esparza and Mayor Jerry P. Dyer*

Is hereby presented in honor of:

*Marcus P. Johnson*

- WHEREAS: Marcus P. Johnson began his career in 1976 at the American Union Elementary School District in Easton, California, where he served as a teacher, junior high vice principal, superintendent, and principal. In 1999, Marcus P. Johnson joined Sanger Unified School District as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, later named Superintendent in 2003, where he led the district for a decade and helped transform its culture and performance. Roles that shaped his lifelong commitment to strengthening connections between schools and their communities. Under his leadership, Sanger Unified School District overcame significant challenges and became one of the first districts in California to exit the Program Improvement status; and
- WHEREAS: He championed the implementation of Professional Learning Communities, building the collective capacity of educators and fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and shared responsibility for student success that became a national model for school improvement. His leadership resulted in measurable and lasting outcomes, including significant increases in student achievement, recognition of 22 California Distinguished Schools, 20 Title I Academic Achieving Schools, and three National Blue Ribbon Schools within Sanger Unified School District; and
- WHEREAS: Marcus P. Johnson's influence extended beyond the Central Valley as he became a nationally recognized leader, sharing his expertise with educators across the country, contributing to California's race to the top initiative, and collaborating with major school districts statewide to improve educational outcomes. His outstanding contributions to education have been recognized with numerous honors and awards. He has remained guided by his enduring motto, "Every Child, Every Day, Whatever It Takes," reflecting his unwavering commitment to students, families, and the future of public education; and
- WHEREAS: Marcus P. Johnson has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to public education in the Central Valley, guided by the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed and that educators and communities share the responsibility to ensure that success. After many years of dedicated service as Executive Director of Compact Fresno, Marcus will be retiring, leaving behind a lasting legacy and is being recognized as the recipient of the 2026 Harold Haak Award. His legacy is further reflected in his devotion to his family, including his wife of 50 years, Penni, their three children, and ten grandchildren, whose lives and accomplishments stand as a testament to his values of commitment, service, and care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that we, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer, Council President Nelson Esparza, and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim, April 9th, 2026, as:

## **"Marcus P. Johnson Day"**

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands  
and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, on this 9th day of April 2026.

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JERRY P. DYER, HONORABLE MAYOR

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NELSON ESPARZA, COUNCIL PRESIDENT DISTRICT 7

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ANNALISA PEREA, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1

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MIKE KARBASSI, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 2

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MIGUEL ARIAS, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 3

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TYLER MAXWELL, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 4

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BRANDON VANG, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 5

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NICK RICHARDSON, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 6