

## **APPROVAL OF SUPPORT FOR THE BERRIEN COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Benton is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens throughout the region and recognizes that a network of trails in Berrien County will contribute greatly to quality of life by connecting people, communities and regional assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Berrien County Trails with its partners and steering committee has engaged Berrien County municipalities, the County and its residents in the development of a countywide master plan for trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" presents a county-wide vision and recommends increasing cooperation and collaboration to create a network that will provide transportation, exercise, leisure, safety, accessibility, recreation and community benefits aimed at enhancing the quality of life for all; and

**WHEREAS**, many communities, agencies, and trail advocates in the region have taken a lead in planning and/or building local trails, and those efforts can be greatly enhanced by being connected to a larger regional network of trails; and

**WHEREAS**, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, trails are freely accessible community assets offering opportunities for transportation, recreation and exercise to all, including seniors, children, youth and families, schools and provide safe places for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and family ties; and

**WHEREAS**, trails have significant impact on the health and economic viability of the region through encouraging active lifestyles, increased levels of tourism, enhanced property values, added jobs related to the construction of and along the trail, as well as enhanced ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" provides the foundation for a long-term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resource for all citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Berrien County Trails has identified the provision of trails as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the region.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Benton Harbor does hereby approve this resolution of support for and tis committed to the promotion and continued development of the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" and in concept to working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Benton Harbor does incorporate the relevant portions of the "Berrien County Trails Master Plan" into our master plan, recreation plan, and other relevant planning documents.

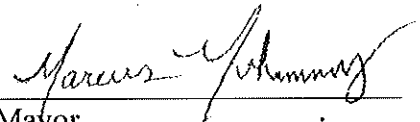
**CITY COMMISSION, BENTON HARBOR  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
Resolution # 110623-01**

ATTEST:  
Its Clerk



By:

Its Mayor



**CERTIFICATE**

We, the Mayor (Marcus Muhammad) and City Clerk (Tiffany Moore) of the City of Benton Harbor, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the Benton Harbor City Commission, County of Berrien, on November 6, 2023, and said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being 1976 Public Act 267, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.