

SPECIAL RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE SHREVEPORT SUN

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect upon, honor, and celebrate the enduring contributions of African Americans whose leadership, resilience, and vision have helped shape the social, cultural, and civic fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, **The Shreveport Sun** has stood for more than a century as a powerful voice for truth, justice, and equity in Northwest Louisiana, documenting the lived experiences, achievements, and challenges of the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, the first edition of The Shreveport Sun was published on **November 6, 1920**, by **Melvin Lee Collins Sr.**, a former educator in Caddo Parish, during a period marked by deep racial inequality and systemic injustice, with the express purpose of giving voice to the voiceless by informing, educating, and motivating readers to rise above those challenges; and

WHEREAS, each weekly edition of The Shreveport Sun was produced with a commitment to factual reporting and thoughtful editorial commentary on governmental actions, socio-economic conditions, and cultural achievements impacting Shreveport and the broader Northwest Louisiana community; and

WHEREAS, The Shreveport Sun operated in accordance with the **Credo of the Black Press**, affirming the belief that America can best lead the world toward justice when full human and legal rights are accorded to every person regardless of race, color, or creed, and striving to uplift all people while hating no one; and

WHEREAS, The Shreveport Sun became an active member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, as well as the Louisiana Press Association and the Louisiana Black Publishers Association, further solidifying its role as a respected and influential institution within the Black press and the broader journalistic community; and

WHEREAS, over its more than **104 years of publication**, The Shreveport Sun operated under the leadership of **Melvin Lee Collins Jr.** and **Sonya Collins-Landry**, supported by numerous dedicated employees and contributors who worked tirelessly to uphold the newspaper's journalistic standards and legacy, including longtime staff members whose service and commitment left an indelible mark on the publication; and

WHEREAS, the final print edition of The Shreveport Sun was dated **Thursday, June 27, 2025**, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary chapter in local and national Black journalism; and

WHEREAS, the enduring legacy of The Shreveport Sun would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the community—its subscribers, advertisers, readers, and supporters—whose trust and engagement sustained the publication for generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Caddo Parish Commission** does hereby recognize and honor the historic legacy and lasting contributions of **The Shreveport Sun**, particularly during **Black History Month**, as a pillar of truth, advocacy, and community empowerment in Caddo Parish and Northwest Louisiana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission expresses its deepest appreciation to the Collins family, the newspaper's leadership, staff, contributors, and supporters for their more than a century of service to journalism, civil discourse, and the African-American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission encourages present and future generations to remember, study, and honor the legacy of The Shreveport Sun as a testament to the power of the Black press and the enduring pursuit of justice, dignity, and equality.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED by the **Caddo Parish Commission** on this ____ day of _____, 2026.