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| **Proclamation** |
| **Whereas:** | Savannah is America’s most beautiful city whose urban forest has more than 70,000 trees which provide valuable shade to her parks, squares, roadways, and neighborhoods; and |
| **Whereas:** | The urban forest promotes the mystique and charm of Savannah, as one of her most distinguishing and noteworthy features; and |
| **Whereas:** | The urban forest increases property values, attracts visitors and future residents, and promotes economic growth and development in our community; and |
| **Whereas:** | The urban forest promotes community health by reducing stress and providing peaceful and serene settings; and |
| **Whereas:** | High quality street trees provide neighborhood cohesiveness and a sense of community; and |
| **Whereas:** | The urban forest reduces stormwater runoff, absorbs carbon dioxide and pollutants, and produces an abundance of clean healthy air; and  |
| **Whereas:** | The City of Savannah has been called “The Forest City” for more than 130 years and has been designated as a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation yearly since 1983. |
| **Now, therefore, I,** Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor of the City of Savannah, do hereby proclaim Friday, February 16, 2024, as:**“Arbor Day”**In Savannah and urge our citizens to ensure our urban forest legacy by protecting and preserving our trees. |