



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Christmas Village in Laconia began in 1975; it was originally inspired by Santa's Village in Bristol, NH, as a way to tell the story of Noah's Ark, eventually becoming a much treasured Christmas celebration; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 49th anniversary of Christmas Village. The event is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom have been involved for decades, whose hard work transforms the Community Center into a winter wonderland; and

WHEREAS, Christmas Village is a free celebration where children can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, receive a gift, visit with the elves, play games, get their faces painted and make crafts. This event is especially important for children who might not otherwise have a Christmas; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25 adult volunteers and 70 children committed their time to help keep this tradition alive for the more than 1,400 people that visited Christmas Village over four days this year; and

WHEREAS, next year marks the 50th anniversary of Christmas Village in Laconia. Work has already begun buying toys for all ages, coming up with new ideas of how to build the village, and working on fundraising in order to keep the tradition moving forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, today as we celebrate the long history of Christmas Village in Laconia, I ask all citizens to join with us in extending our heartfelt thanks to the countless volunteers for making sure this magical tradition continues in our community.

Given under my hand and the seal of the City
of Laconia this 23rd day of December in the
year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew J. Hosmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew J. Hosmer, Mayor