

Proclamation

- Whereas** the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat youthful offenders while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety and is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the punitive nature of the adult criminal justice system; and
- Whereas** youth are developmentally different from adults and these differences have been documented by research on the adolescent brain and acknowledged by the US and State supreme courts, many state and federal laws that prohibit youth under age 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service; and
- Whereas** youth with mental health issues, youth with disabilities, and youth of color are represented at all stages of the criminal justice system and are profoundly impacted; and
- Whereas** youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system are able to access age appropriate services, education, and remain closer to their families, all of which reduces the likelihood of future offending; and
- Whereas** over 75,000 youth are tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults every year in the United States and most of the youth are prosecuted for non-violent offenses; and
- Whereas** most laws allowing the prosecuting of youth as adults were enacted prior to research evidence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention demonstrating that youth prosecuted in adult court actually decreases public safety, on average, they are 34 percent more likely to commit future crimes than youth retained in the juvenile system; and
- Whereas** youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record which deters future education or employment opportunities. Youth who receive extremely long sentences deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change;
- Now Therefore** We, Mayor Frank Klipsch, and the Davenport City Council do hereby proclaim October 1st-31st, 2019, as

YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH

and encourage all citizens of our community to join with millions of Americans in helping to support the efforts and awareness of Youth Justice.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2019.

Frank J. Klipsch
Mayor of Davenport

Brian Krup
Deputy City Clerk