



## City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL  
MAYOR

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, between 1879 and 1934, Native American children were removed from their homes and forced to attend boarding schools meant to assimilate Native people which were run by the government and churches; and

WHEREAS, at these schools, children were severely punished for speaking their native language and practicing their traditions and cultural ways, many were abused and died there, where their bodies remain in marked and unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, while most of these schools had shut down by 1940, others stayed open and loopholes in the law allowed abuses to continue there into the 1980s; and

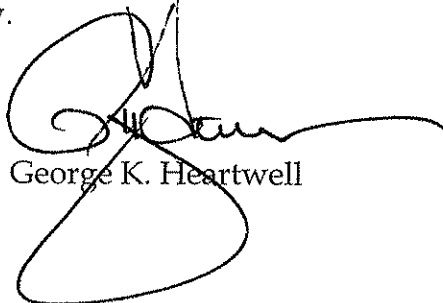
WHEREAS, on May 16, 2009, White Bison, Inc. began a 40-day, 6800 mile cross-country journey to current and former Indian School sites with the goal of promoting awareness, dialogue, and forgiveness among Native peoples for this trauma; and

WHEREAS, The Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness has designated June as National Forgiveness Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George K. Heartwell, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, do hereby recognize

### **THE WHITE BISON'S 2009 WELLBRIETY JOURNEY FOR FORGIVENESS**

in Grand Rapids, and ask all citizens to join together in this on-going healing and reconciliation process in our community.



George K. Heartwell