



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROSALYNN C. BLISS
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rapids has become a home away from home for Ukrainian immigrants and refugees, fostering many personal, community and business ties between Grand Rapids and Ukrainian communities, including the City of Dnipro; and

WHEREAS, the sovereign nation of Ukraine was invaded by Russian military forces without cause on February 24, 2022, resulting in immense suffering and disrupting the lives of millions of Ukrainians, including the residents of Dnipro; and

WHEREAS, Grand Rapids Sister Cities International and the City of Grand Rapids were connected to Dnipro in 2022 by Grand Rapids-based digital agency Menklab, and following that connection have corresponded virtually regarding items of mutual interest and support, including a virtual meeting between myself and Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2023, the Grand Rapids Sister City International Board voted to recommend designating Dnipro a Grand Rapids Friendship City, giving time for the two cities to continue to assess the strength and vitality of their relationship. We look forward to strengthening our friendship this year through the support of our community members and area businesses with ties to the Dnipro region and Ukraine, and in the spirit of international cooperation and mutual understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, do hereby formally recognize that

Dnipro, Ukraine is a Friendship City
of Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States of America.




Rosalynn Bliss