



Proclamation Recognizing Laura Maychruk for Receiving The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest's "Heart of Our Villages" Award

WHEREAS, we are here today to thank Laura Maychruk and honor her as one of the 2025 recipients of the "Heart of Our Villages" award, presented by The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Maychruk has shown a commitment to our communities as an active, involved citizen of River Forest, a successful entrepreneur and business owner with her husband Andrew, a preservationist dedicated to restoring homes to their former glory; and a mother of four; and

WHEREAS, Laura Maychruk has been a resident of River Forest for 20 years, during which time she restored her home at 210 Gale Avenue to its original 1895 façade, then restored the interior, and finally rebuilt the garage to match the historic home, and for these efforts has been recognized by the Village of River Forest with three historic preservation awards; and

WHEREAS, Laura Maychruk has opened her historic River Forest home to the community on several occasions, including the Parenthesis Kitchen Walk, the Infant Welfare Society Holiday House Walk, and The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest Spring House Walk; and

WHEREAS, as the owner and operator of the Buzz Café in Oak Park for 25 years, Laura Maychruk played a key role in revitalizing the Harrison Street corridor and helping establish the Arts District. She also served as president of the Oak Park Arts District Business Association; and

WHEREAS, Laura Maychruk has continually sought ways to support our communities, so much so that the Buzz Café was named the "Most Philanthropic Business of the Year" by the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, and later received a Green Award for Sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Laura Maychruk currently serves as an active volunteer and board member with the OPRF Imagine Foundation, helping to raise funds necessary for the planned expansion and construction of sports and performing arts spaces at Oak Park River Forest High School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Maychruk, as a real estate agent for 30 years, has been recognized by her peers with both the Good Neighbor and the Walter R James Memorial Distinguished Member Award for Community Service.

WHEREAS, Laura Maychruk continues to represent our community with passion, integrity, vision and hard work, bringing her knowledge, ideas and energy to many facets of life in both Oak Park and River Forest, thus exemplifying the commonality and the best characteristics of the two sister villages.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI, President of the Village of River Forest, sincerely thank Laura Maychruk for her community work and congratulate her on being selected by The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest as one of the 2025 recipients of the "Heart of Our Villages" award.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this 24th day of February 2025.

Catherine Adduci, Village President