

# Borough of West Chester



## Office of the Mayor Jordan Norley Proclamation

### **WEST CHESTER RAILROAD APPRECIATION MONTH JULY 2021**

**WHEREAS:** on February 18, 1831, foreshadowing the positive influence railroads would have on the economic future of West Chester Borough, a committee led by Judge Isaac Darlington and comprised of the Borough's leading families was granted a State Charter to build and operate the West Chester Railroad connecting the Borough to the Main Line at "West Chester Intersection" (Malvern); and

**WHEREAS:** on November 11, 1858, the West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad extended a second railroad to West Chester from Media which, together with the West Chester Railroad, contributed to the growth and economic vitality of West Chester Borough well into the 20th Century; and

**WHEREAS:** on October 26, 1986, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), the latest owner and operator of the West Chester Branch, suspended train service to West Chester Borough; and

**WHEREAS:** effective July 1, 1996, West Chester Borough entered into a lease with SEPTA to protect the West Chester Branch for future generations and provide for its on-going upkeep and maintenance; and

**WHEREAS:** on or about December 31, 1996, West Chester Borough, with SEPTA's approval, entered into a sublease with 4 States Railway Services, Inc., of Yorklyn, Delaware (d/b/a West Chester Railroad) to maintain the West Chester Branch in return for authority to operate tourist trains between West Chester and Glen Mills; and

**WHEREAS:** since September 21, 1997, the West Chester Railroad and its affiliate, the West Chester Railroad Heritage Association, a 501(3)c non-profit organization, have operated a popular and educational series of tourist trains over the West Chester Branch, attracting tourists to West Chester Borough to the benefit the local economy at no cost to the Borough; and

**WHEREAS:** for the past quarter century, the West Chester Railroad and West Chester Railroad Heritage Association volunteers have toiled tirelessly to maintain the West Chester Branch right-of-way in impeccable condition through voluntary contributions of labor and materials at no cost to the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Jordan Norley, Mayor of the Borough of West Chester, do hereby proclaim July 2021 as WEST CHESTER RAILROAD APPRECIATION MONTH in the Borough of West Chester.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Office of Mayor to be affixed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021.*

Jordan Norley, Mayor  
Borough of West Chester, Pennsylvania