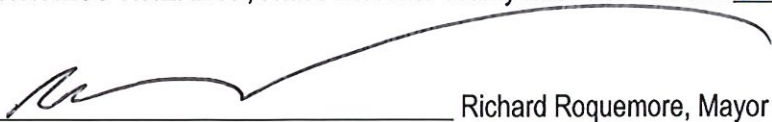


GEORGIA READS DAY PROCLAMATION
#07-024

- WHEREAS:** Literacy is not just an education issue but an economic, workforce, and quality of life issue. It is also a predictor of future educational achievement, economic status, and lifelong health and well-being.
- WHEREAS:** In 2023, 61% of Georgia rising fourth graders did not read proficiently, and research shows that children who are proficient readers by the end of third grade are four times more likely to graduate from high school than their peers who are not reading on grade level.
- WHEREAS:** The General Assembly recognized the importance of literacy skills with the passage of two bills in 2023: SB 211, that created the Georgia Council on Literacy, and HB 538, that requires comprehensive education reforms for reading instruction in the science of reading.
- WHEREAS:** Understanding that collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships must be undertaken to effectively address literacy issues, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and its nonprofit organization, Georgia City Solutions, members of the Georgia General Assembly, and football champion now turned children's author, Malcolm Mitchell, partnered with the Georgia Council on Literacy to launch "Georgia Reads" at the 2024 GMA Annual Convention.
- WHEREAS:** Community involvement is essential to literacy improvements and "Georgia Reads" will include recognizing 10 community partnerships that have increased literacy in the past three to five years as Georgia Reads Communities.
- WHEREAS:** September 30, 2024, marks a date when all Georgians are encouraged to create awareness about the importance of reading and encourage community partnerships to promote future literacy improvements.
- WHEREAS:** Together we can improve Georgia's economic vitality one book at a time.
- THEREFORE:** I, Richard Roquemore, do hereby proclaim September 30, 2024, as **CITY OF AUBURN READS DAY** and encourage all residents, businesses, and community partners to help promote and elevate literacy as a community priority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12 day of September 2024.


Richard Roquemore, Mayor