

PROCLAMATION

DR. PERCY L. JULIAN DAY

APRIL 11, 2026

WHEREAS, Dr. Percy Lavon Julian was born in Montgomery, Alabama on April 11, 1899, and, encouraged by his family, left the segregated South to pursue higher education, graduating first in his class from DePauw University in 1920, earning a master's degree from Harvard University in 1923, and receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in 1931, becoming one of the first African Americans to achieve this distinction; and

WHEREAS, despite facing persistent racial discrimination, Dr. Julian became a world-renowned chemist, earning more than 130 patents and publishing over 150 scientific articles, with groundbreaking discoveries in the development of affordable synthetic steroids and hormones used in medicines that treat glaucoma, rheumatoid arthritis, and other conditions; and

WHEREAS, his wife, Dr. Anna Roselle Julian, was also a trailblazer, earning a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1937, at a time when few women achieved such distinction; and

WHEREAS, the Julian family moved to the Chicago area in 1936 when Dr. Julian joined Glidden Paint Company, later founding Julian Laboratories in Franklin Park in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Dr. Julian was named Chicagoan of the Year, and that same year the Julian family moved to Oak Park, where, prior to and shortly after their arrival, their home was targeted by acts of racist violence, including arson and attempted attacks, intended to prevent them from living in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Julian family met these acts with resilience and courage, remaining in their East Avenue home—now recognized as a site of local historical significance—and contributing to the advancement of civil rights, integration, and a more inclusive Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, the Julian family's legacy continues in Oak Park, where their story reflects both the challenges of the past and the community's ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim *April 11, 2026, as DR. PERCY L. JULIAN DAY* in the Village of Oak Park, and encourage all residents to reflect on Dr. Julian's extraordinary contributions to science, medicine, and human rights, and to honor his enduring legacy as a pioneer for inclusion and a catalyst for progress in our community.

DATED this 24th day of March 2026.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk