

# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING FAITH JULIAN AND THE JULIAN FAMILY LEGACY IN OAK PARK, IL

**WHEREAS**, Faith Julian is a longtime resident of Oak Park, IL and the daughter of renowned chemist, inventor, and civil rights pioneer Dr. Percy Lavon Julian and sociologist Dr. Anna Roselle Julian, both of whom made extraordinary contributions to science, education, and the advancement of civil rights in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Percy Julian, one of the most accomplished chemists of the twentieth century, held more than 150 patents and developed groundbreaking methods for synthesizing life-saving medicines, including affordable corticosteroids used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, lupus, and other inflammatory conditions, as well as progesterone used in the development of the first birth control pill; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1950, the same year Dr. Percy L. Julian was honored as *Chicagoan of the Year* for his groundbreaking scientific achievements, the Julian family's Oak Park home was targeted by racist violence before they could move in, when intruders broke in, poured kerosene throughout the house, and set it on fire, causing damage and delaying the family's move; and in a separate incident, dynamite was thrown toward the bedroom window of young Faith Julian, damaging the front entrance of their home though it did not penetrate the window; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these acts of hatred and intimidation, the Julian family moved forward with their plans to live in Oak Park, demonstrating extraordinary courage and helping affirm the principle that all people have the right to live where they choose; and

**WHEREAS**, the Julian family home on East Avenue stands today as a powerful symbol of resilience and progress in Oak Park, representing both the painful history of racial discrimination and the enduring determination of a family who refused to be driven away; and

**WHEREAS**, Faith Julian, the only member of the Julian family who still resides in the historic home, has worked with determination to preserve the property and protect the legacy it represents, striving to keep the home in her family's name and ensure that its story continues to inspire future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the East Avenue home has become a significant community legacy site, reminding residents of the courage it took for the Julian family to stand against hatred and

remain in Oak Park, and serving as an enduring testament to the progress our community continues to pursue toward justice, equity, and belonging; and

**WHEREAS**, through public remarks and community engagement, Faith Julian has shared the powerful legacy of her father and family with students and residents, encouraging future generations to pursue education, overcome obstacles, and work toward a more just and inclusive society; and

**WHEREAS**, Faith Julian's stewardship of her family's home and story reflects a deep commitment to preserving Oak Park's history and honoring the courage of those who stood against discrimination in pursuit of a more equitable future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Oak Park recognizes the Julian family's lasting impact on our community, including the naming of **Percy Julian Middle School**, the presence of Dr. Julian's bust at the Oak Park Public Library, and the inspiration his life's work continues to provide to students, scientists, and residents alike.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park, Illinois, and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim our recognition and appreciation of **FAITH JULIAN** for her perseverance, her dedication to preserving the legacy of the Julian family, and her continued contributions to the story of courage, scientific achievement, and civil rights that form an important part of Oak Park's history.

**DATED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:

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Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk