

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Travel is at the heart of America’s economic sustainability. It generates millions of jobs, and billions in taxes, it is a vital resource in improving America’s image. **In Ford County, the travel industry contributes substantially to our city’s cultural and social well-being.** Travel is one of our most fundamental freedoms. Every citizen benefits from travel and tourism. **The travel industry significantly enhances our personal growth and education, while promoting intercultural understanding and appreciation of Dodge City’s history, geography and culture;** and,

WHEREAS, Travel is one of America’s largest service exports, and is among the largest private-sector employers in the United States. Across the nation, **one of every eight U.S. non-farm jobs is connected to travel;** and,

WHEREAS, Kansas tourism has a **\$11 Billion** impact on the Kansas economy; and,

WHEREAS, According to the latest report from Tourism Economics, ‘The Economic Impact of Tourism in Ford County,’ shows that **leaders in the community are supporting the importance and growth of tourism throughout the county, with visitors spending \$133 million in Ford County, ranking us 8th among all counties in the state.**

WHEREAS, Tourism in Ford County generated **\$18.8 million in tax revenues, with \$11.3 million accruing to state and local governments.** The largest two categories of spending are recreation, and food and beverages, with **\$38 million spent in recreation and \$28.5 million spent on food and beverages in Ford County.**

WHEREAS, This spending **directly supported 1,162 jobs in Ford County, with overall visitor-supported economic activity supporting more than 1,477 jobs – that is one out of every 12 jobs in the county.**

WHEREAS, Visitors spending averaged **\$15,200 every hour of every day in Ford County in 2017. “Groups” (conference meetings, bus travelers, weddings, reunions) impacted Dodge City by \$11 million;** increasing our tax revenues and providing an improved quality of life for Dodge City citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shawn Tasset, Chairman of the Ford County Commission, do hereby proclaim May 5th -11th, 2019 as

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Dodge City with the aid of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, will hold a **reception on May 7th from 9 AM to 10:30 AM, with a complimentary Historic Trolley Tours on that day at 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, and 3:00 PM** in observance of Travel and Tourism Week in Dodge City at the Visitors Information Center, and urge the citizens to join me in this special observance with appropriate events and activities.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of May, 2019

Shawn Tasset Chairman of the Board, Ford County Commission