

**WHEREAS**, Tropical Storm Matthew formed September 27, 2016, and became a hurricane on September 29, ultimately strengthening to a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of more than 157 miles per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, the Macon-Bibb County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) activated the Emergency Operations Center for 88 hours in response to a state of emergency being declared and people evacuating inland, and opened four emergency shelters for both people and pets; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 100 volunteers from 23 departments and partner agencies and organizations mobilized for an estimated 166 hours to shelter and care for hurricane evacuees, meaning our community gave more than 3,600 hours of their time to take care of people in their time of need and more than 640 people stayed in emergency shelters in Macon-Bibb County and were served more than 6,000 meals during their stay; and

**WHEREAS**, the evacuees as they stayed in the shelters or toured Macon-Bibb County, received a welcoming response by the responders, and the friendly nature of Macon-Bibb citizens, in restaurants, and in our parks, and

**WHEREAS**, Partners in this response effort included the American Red Cross, Bibb County School District, Bibb County Sheriff's Office, Coliseum Health, Department of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Department of Health, Georgia State Defense Force, Macon Transit Authority, Macon-Bibb Health Department, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Navicent Health, Salvation Army, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, EMA Volunteer Unit, and Spectra Management, and responding Macon-Bibb departments included Animal Welfare, Emergency Management, Fire Department, Information Technology, Mayor's Office, Public Affairs, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and Solid Waste,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert A.B. Reichert, do hereby proclaim November 1, 2016, as:

**“HURRICANE MATTHEW RESPONSE APPRECIATION DAY”**

In Macon-Bibb County and encourage all people to thank our emergency responders for always being at the ready to protect life and property in time of disaster and crisis, and for opening our community to those people in time of need during the devastating days of Hurricane Matthew.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Consolidated Government to be affixed this \_\_\_\_day of November 2016.

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**Robert A.B. Reichert**  
**Mayor**