

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, throughout our nation's history, homeownership has been central to the American way of life. Homeownership plays a critical role in strengthening families and communities, and for those reasons, our nation has long promoted homeownership, and

Whereas, since America's earliest days, homeownership has been creating community stakeholders who are active in charities and their places of worship, and more likely to vote and become involved with local issues. Moreover, homeownership offers children a stable living environment, and influences their development in measurable ways. Children of homeowners score an average of 9 percent higher in math, and 7 percent higher in reading. Children of homeowners are 25 percent more likely to graduate high school, and more than twice as likely to graduate from college. Quite simply, our nation is made stronger by the hardworking families and individuals who participate in the American Dream of homeownership, and

Whereas, homeownership also serves as an engine of social mobility and the pathway to prosperity. In fact, owning a home is a family's quickest and surest path to self-sufficiency, and provides families with stability and security, and

Whereas, today, nearly 75 million Americans are homeowners, and the percentage of households that have achieved homeownership – nearly 70 percent – is at an all-time high. Minority homeownership is also at an all-time high, as nearly 52% of all minority households own their homes, and

Whereas, the federal government is working aggressively to make homeownership more affordable and more accessible, and to ensure that the dream of homeownership is available to all Americans. Bristol joins with the federal government in this mission, and

Whereas, the City of Bristol has promoted and funded an Affordable Homeownership Program through the Community Development Block Grant since 1991 and through the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia HOME Consortium since 2003,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James E. Messimer, Mayor of the City of Bristol, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 2005 as

Homeownership Month

and I call upon all the people of the City of Bristol to join me in recognizing the importance of providing every citizen with the opportunity to own their own home.

This 7th day of June, 2005.

*James E. Messimer
Mayor*