

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Tennessee must routinely manage pest plant species that are not native to the state and are both injurious to and costly in the management of our state's natural areas, wildlands, farmlands, managed forests, recreation areas and parks, and home landscapes; and

WHEREAS, invasive pest plant species are expensive with costs to private landowners, small businesses, state and federal agencies which are substantial and result in economic losses in crops, timber sales, and grazing and foraging across Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, invasions by pest plant species result in significant decreases in biodiversity with invasion of habitat by exotic pest plant species as one of the primary reasons cited for endangerment of rare species; and community structure and ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, fire regimes, and hydrology are altered when pest plant species are introduced; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee recreational groups, government and industry, educational institutions and entities, land trusts, conservation organizations, nurseries, botanic gardens, and gardening groups acknowledge the economic and environmental dangers posed to their continued economic and social well-being by the presence of invasive pest plants; and Tennessee government agencies, private sector entities and conservation groups strongly support implementation of all aspects of integrated weed management; and

WHEREAS, several non-governmental organizations such as, but not limited to, the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Greenways Oak Ridge, and others will sponsor special events during *National Invasive Species Awareness Week*, and throughout 2010 to focus attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds; and to eradicate invasive plants from public lands, including City property; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bredesen declared the week of February 23 through 28, 2009 to be *First Annual Weed Awareness Week* in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the *National Invasive Species Awareness Week* is held annually in Washington, D.C., to bring together groups from across the country to focus attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the House of Representatives concurring, has designated the week of February 22-27, 2010, as Invasive Weed Awareness Week.

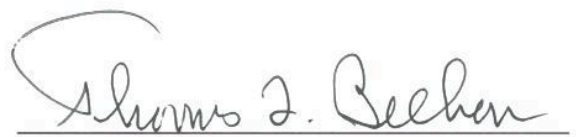
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE that February 22- 27, 2010 be proclaimed

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and that all citizens be encouraged to join in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Oak Ridge to be affixed, this the 11th day of January in the year 2010.





Mayor