

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF
MARCH 15 THROUGH 21, 2020, AS SUNSHINE WEEK
AND MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020, AS FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION DAY IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Constitution recognizes and guarantees [that] all political power is inherent in the people and it is the public policy of the State of Oklahoma that the people are vested with the inherent right to know and be fully informed about their government; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, it is the public policy of the State of Oklahoma to encourage and facilitate an informed citizenry's understanding of the governmental processes and problems; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Open Records Act is to ensure and facilitate the public's right of access to and review of government records so they may efficiently and intelligently exercise their inherent political power; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Evidence Code presumes that "There is no privilege to a communication between a public officer or agency and its attorney unless the communication concerns a pending investigation, claim or action and the court determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public officer or agency to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation or proceeding in the public interest; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the federal Freedom of Information Act requires federal agencies to disclose records unless they fall under one of nine limited exemptions; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution and the Oklahoma Constitution both prohibit any law that would restrain or abridge freedom of the press; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, these constitutional and statutory provisions reflect the philosophy that "The government is us; we are the government, you and I" (President Theodore Roosevelt).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 8. Do hereby proclaim the week of March 15 through 21, 2020 as Sunshine Week and Monday, March 16, 2020, as Freedom of Information Day in the City of Norman

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of March, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

