Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, Heather Hackett, moved by the communication breakdowns she witnessed during Hurricane Irma in 2017, envisioned a single trusted place where communities could find information, local resources, and ways to help one another in times of disaster, and carried that vision for years; and

WHEREAS, after witnessing the devastation of Hurricane Ian in 2022, Heather established the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Local Relief, serving as its Founder and Executive Director, and built a collaborative, community-driven platform dedicated to disaster communication, local resources, and support; and

WHEREAS, Heather continues to meet life's greatest challenges with the same courage, grace, and determination that have defined her work, inspiring all who know her and demonstrating that one person's idea can grow into a movement that strengthens communities through connections and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that her family, friends, colleagues, and the many people whose lives she has touched come together to celebrate her extraordinary legacy and the lasting difference she has made.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that October 20, 2026, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

HEATHER HACKETT DAY

in Manatee County, Florida.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Tal Siddique

Tal Siddique, Chairperson

October 20, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject
Heather Hackett Day – No Presentation Scheduled

Category
AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Briefings
None

Contact and/or Presenter Information
Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested
Adoption of Proclamation designating October 20, 2026, as “Heather Hackett Day.”

Enabling/Regulating Authority
None

Background Discussion
Heather established the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Local Relief, serving as its Founder and Executive Director, and built a collaborative, community-driven platform dedicated to disaster communication, local resources, and neighbors helping neighbors before, during, and after disasters. Heather has in the last two weeks, been diagnosed with cancer which was a major blow to our community and for a person who worked so hard to have this devastating diagnosis and prognosis we wish to honor her while she can receive such accolades.

Attorney Review
Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records
None

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name
N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
N/A