

**PROCLAMATION TO CELEBRATE  
THE LARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ALL-GIRLS ROBOTICS TEAM GIRL BOTZ 22918**

**WHEREAS, The Girl Botz, Team 22918**, an all-girls robotics team from Larson Middle School finished their first year with a trip to the state championships. They advanced to the Michigan FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics State Championship at Macomb Community College, December 8-10, 2023. FIRST stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology;” and

**WHEREAS**, The **Girl Botz Team 22918** members are eighth graders Ella Bunao, Emmelyn Lauder, and Christel Mathew; and sixth graders Keerthana Chandra, Jianna Cruz, Eliza Debusschere, Varna Jayaraman, Hanuel Kim, Ishita Pedapati, and Ashleysha Thakare; and

**WHEREAS**, One of nine FTC Robotics teams from Larson Middle School, the **Girl Botz Team** distinguished themselves by winning several high-profile awards this season. One was the Inspire Award, earned at the Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association regional championship at Pontiac International Technology Academy on December 2, 2023. The Inspire Award is the highest robotics award, given to a team that best embodies the ideals of FIRST; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Girl Botz Team** also won one of the highest honors at the State Championship called the Motivate Award, for the team that best made FIRST known in the community. It involves bringing FIRST and STEM awareness to the young, schools, communities, and local businesses and informing them about the ideals and mission of FIRST, the Team really makes an effort to collaborate and work with the parents on the team. Nine awards overall are given out during tournaments, so winning these awards proves that they are not only one of the top contending teams but the most well-rounded team; and

**WHEREAS, Mentor Judy Bunao** also won the Compass Award for her tireless leadership and volunteerism. As a mentor she has consistently been a compass through creativity and mentorship. With insight and dedication, Judy has steered the team through the challenges of technology with brilliance and grace. The Compass Award sets its course for a mentor who’s not just about bots but about building futures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy hereby congratulate **Girl Botz Team** Members Ella Bunao, Emmelyn Lauder, Christel Mathew, Keerthana Chandra, Jianna Cruz, Eliza Debusschere, Varna Jayaraman, Hanuel Kim, Ishita Pedapati, Ashleysha Thakare, and Mentor/Coach Judy Bunao for working tirelessly to excel in the field of Robotics, bringing pride and positive recognition to the City of Troy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy invite all residents to celebrate **The Girl Botz, Team 22918’s** achievements, wish them much success in all future endeavors, and thank them for being great role models for our community and exceptional advocates for the field of Robotics.

**Presented this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024**