



ERIN MENDENHALL
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, John Paul Brophy Jr. was born in 1951 in Salt Lake City and has spent decades as a cornerstone of the arts and journalism in Salt Lake City, writing and editing at institutions from the Salt Lake Tribune to City Weekly with the pen name J.P. Gabellini, illuminating the beauty of everyday life and power of music; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s when John Paul became co-owner of The Dead Goat Saloon—a downtown basement bar originally opened in 1973—it transformed into the premier blues music venue of the Intermountain West, welcoming legends such as Buddy Miles, Levon Helm, Merl Saunders, Mick Taylor, and Los Lobos; and

WHEREAS, under his stewardship, The Dead Goat Saloon introduced many Utahns to the authentic roots of American rock and roll by bridging Black blues musicians—torchbearers of musical tradition steeped in pain, joy and history—from across the United States with predominantly white Salt Lake audiences; and

WHEREAS, John Paul knew that good art requires talent, space, support and a willingness to take risks; and

WHEREAS, under his mentorship and advocacy, The Dead Goat Saloon served as a incubator for young Utah bands where they learned how to engage an audience and respect the blues lineage they entered, including holding space for formative gigs for bands like The Tempo Timers, Megan Peters and Big Leg, and My Sister Jane; and

WHEREAS, John Paul helped instill grit, soul, and swing into Salt Lake City by facilitating not just concerts but cultural moments that resonated throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, we invite residents to join the City in expressing gratitude for his life spent enriching our community and recognizing his legacy of profound contributions to our cultural and musical heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Erin Mendenhall, Mayor of Salt Lake City, proclaim April 23, 2025, as:

John Paul Brophy Jr. Day in Salt Lake City

April 23, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin Mendenhall", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Erin Mendenhall
Mayor