

MAYOR

James Dodge

VILLAGE CLERK

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**ORLAND
PARK**

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Joanna M. Liotine Leafblad

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

HONORING BALLET 5:8

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2025

WHEREAS, Ballet 5:8 was established to inspire conversations about life, faith, and human dignity through powerful narrative ballet—challenging assumptions about who ballet is for, where it belongs, and the stories it can tell - and its name is drawn from a biblical passage that reflects themes of clarity, purpose, and the beauty of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, Ballet 5:8 was founded in 2012 as a female- and Latina-led professional ballet company and school headquartered in Orland Park, and has since grown into a nationally recognized leader in artistic excellence, storytelling, and accessible dance education; and

WHEREAS, Ballet 5:8's work has earned national attention, including features on Good Morning America, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and Modern Luxury, elevating Orland Park's presence in the arts community across the country; and

WHEREAS, in just over a decade, Ballet 5:8 has expanded from a small emerging studio to a thriving multi-branch nonprofit organization serving thousands of students annually and touring original productions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Ballet 5:8 is now the largest nonprofit performing arts organization south of the City of Chicago and operates through three core pillars:

- The Professional Company, a nationally touring ensemble and resident company at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park, ranked among the 50 largest ballet companies in the United States;
- The School of Ballet 5:8, offering high-caliber pre-professional training and mentorship, with students regularly receiving scholarships to premier programs across the country;
- Community Engagement and Education, including school performances, library partnerships, senior-living outreach, and free or low-cost arts opportunities for families throughout the Southland; and

WHEREAS, Ballet 5:8 continues to enrich the cultural landscape of Orland Park by inspiring emerging artists, providing transformative arts experiences for residents of all ages, and strengthening the Village's identity as a growing hub for creativity and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park is proud to recognize Ballet 5:8 for its artistic innovation, educational commitment, and ongoing contributions to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Dodge, Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, do hereby recognize Ballet 5:8 as the Business of the Month for December 2025, and commend its leadership, dancers, faculty, and staff for their outstanding service, talent, and dedication to enriching the lives of Orland Park residents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Village of Orland Park to be affixed this 1st day of December, 2025.

Jim Dodge
Mayor, Village of Orland Park