



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1984, the Dashers Track and Sports Organization serves youth ages 5-18, helping them build physical fitness, mental stamina, discipline, and strong character through organized training and competition; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Dashers Track and Sports Organization is to develop not just athletes, but future leaders, teaching sportsmanship, citizenship, and life skills that carry far beyond track. With a coaching philosophy rooted in positivity, focus, and effort, Dashers prepare athletes at every level from beginners to elite competitors through event-specific training and supportive team culture; and

**WHEREAS**, while not every child becomes an Olympian or Division 1 Athlete, every participant gains confidence, structure, and valuable life experience. This summer, 51 Dashers athletes qualified through the highly competitive USATF Region 9 Championship, competing against top athletes from Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, with 35 of those athletes competing at the USATF Junior Olympics National Championships in Savannah, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, despite extreme heat and frequent weather delays, the Dashers athletes performed with resilience and excellence. 2025 USATF Junior Olympics Highlights: 7 Dashers athletes earned All-American honors by placing in the top 8 in the nation: Aundria Bryant (age group 13-14) 8th - 3000m Race Walk; Sophie Shapiro (age group 17-18) 8th - 400m Hurdles; Deserie Bartlett (age group 13-14) 5th - Long Jump (2x All-American this year); Amauni Shell, Senyah Haynes, Deserie Bartlett, Leah Hubbard (age group 13-14) 8th - 4x100m Relay (first time competing together as a team); Rayna Raglin (age group 17-18) • 4th - 100m • 6th - 200m • 5th - 400m (Rayna is a 3x All-American this year, competing in 9 rounds over 5 days) In addition to national honors, 19 personal records were set during the championship week highlighting the growth, effort, and dedication of our entire team; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dashers continue to impact lives through sports and mentorship, remaining committed to "Building Strong Communities by Developing Our Youth".

*Pride in the Past Promise for the Future*  
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby recognize the outstanding achievement of the Dashers Track and Sports Organization during their 2024-2025 track season and offer our heartfelt congratulations.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor  
Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025