

**WHEREAS**, the Public Library is a focal point of a community’s literacy efforts, providing continuing education and special programming to encourage a life-long love of books; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of the Mansfield Public Library is joining with the library to celebrate books with the 14<sup>th</sup> annual “Mansfield Reads!” our own version of the “One City, One Book” program that has been embraced nationwide; and,

**WHEREAS**, citizens are being asked to come together and read the same book in hopes of initiating discussions and reconnecting with reading and the books offered at the Mansfield Public Library; and,

**WHEREAS**, this year’s selection is “Oleander Girl” by best-selling Indian-American author and University of Houston writing professor Chitra Divakaruni, a critically acclaimed writer and poet whose works have received numerous awards including the American Book Award and the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Prize; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mansfield residents are encouraged to read the book and attend the many special events planned during March and April, including films, book discussions and a lecture with the author on April 28 at the Mansfield Public Library; and,

**WHEREAS**, the “One City, One Book” event offers the community an opportunity to continue an annual tradition that not only promotes literacy but inspires communication, creativity and cultural exchange among our citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, David L. Cook, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, join with members of the City Council to hereby proclaim April 2017

**MANSFIELD READS! MONTH**

in the City of Mansfield and urge all citizens to participate in this event as a celebration of reading and the positive impact literacy has on people’s lives and on our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I do hereby set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.