

*PROCLAMATION*  
*Declaring “Max Roach Day”*  
*in Elizabeth City*  
*January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024*

**WHEREAS**, Max Roach was one of the most influential drummers of the bebop era, a new jazz movement which he helped pioneer in the 1940s; and

**WHEREAS**, although some years later relocating to Brooklyn, Max Roach was a native of Pasquotank County, having been born in Newland on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1924; and

**WHEREAS**, from his beginnings drumming in gospel ensembles to his more formal training at the Manhattan School of Music, Max Roach developed a unique style of playing and quickly became renowned for his incredible skills as a percussionist; and

**WHEREAS**, not only supremely talented as a musician, he was also known for his political commentary and intellect, which he often combined along with his recordings, becoming a spokesperson against injustice and leading the charge in the pursuit of freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, on what would have been Max Roach’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, his community will come together to commemorate his musical legacy.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, E. Kirk Rivers, Mayor of Elizabeth City, do hereby proclaim the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January as **Max Roach Day** and I invite all citizens to join us as we acknowledge and celebrate a true inspiration.

**ADOPTED**, this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023

---

E. Kirk Rivers  
Mayor

---

April D. Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk