

City of Vancouver, Washington

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard Scholar, established the observance of "Negro History Week" to reveal the contributions, achievements, and involvement of African American people in the development of our American democracy; and
- WHEREAS, since 1976, February has been designated as Black History Month to take time to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of African Americans and honor the achievements and involvement in building and defending the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the 2024 Black History Month theme is "African Americans and the Arts" in acknowledgment of the widely, diversified impacts in which Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and other art related, humanity progressions, as forms of cultural expression as well as to preserve the African American history; and
- WHEREAS, it is upon all of our responsibility to accurately allow for the knowledge and teachings of our Black and African American diaspora history to be told as well as celebrated within Black History month and throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS, we must acknowledge and pay tribute to the generations of individuals who struggled with adversity, risked their lives for justice, fought a fight that at times seemed impossible to win, and still continue to fight for equality; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver supports and encourages all community members to honor and participate in activities designed to seek out, teach and recognize the many heroes who are unknown and unnamed, who have contributed to the struggle for freedom and justice; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is committed to recognizing and eliminating institutional and systemic racism and the consequences thereof within the City; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver continues to work toward becoming an inclusive and just community in which all community members are respected and recognized for their real and potential contributions to our community, state, country, and world; and
- WHEREAS, we are immensely proud of the history as well as thankful for the countless contributions of African Americans in the City of Vancouver and throughout this nation; this month, and throughout the year, we urge our community to celebrate that heritage and continue to fight for equality and opportunity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the 12th in February as:

"Black History Month"

in the City of Vancouver and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the diverse character of our community.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 12th day of February, 2024.

Anne McEnerny-Ogle
ANNE McENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR