

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, in February 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson introduced Negro History Week and in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes and pays tribute to the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality, and deepens our understanding of our shared history; and

WHEREAS, for generations, African American individuals, families, and communities have played a significant role in protesting the necessity for black individuals and families to be viewed and valued as human beings who are respected, dignified, and worthy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem acknowledges the historical and modern day challenges faced by people of African descent sustained by white supremacy in all its direct and indirect impacts and applications; and

WHEREAS, the Salem City Council has denounced racism as a systemic issue creating disparate outcomes in many areas of life including family stability. On January 25, 2021, Council adopted Resolution 2021-2 condemning white supremacy and racism, and Resolution 2021-3 affirming that racism is a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, we at the City of Salem commend the many achievements, successes, and contributions of African Americans, whose roots begin with a foundation of incredible strength, resilience, creativity, and unity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the city of Salem, Oregon, and encourage all residents to join in learning about and celebrating the contributions African Americans have made to our country, our state, and to our community.

DATED this first day of February 2021.



Chuck Bennett
Mayor