

## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, in Oregon, the earliest documented African American is Marcus Lopez, a crew member on the ship Lady Washington in Tillamook on August 14, 1788. The history of African Americans in Oregon and in Salem since that time is rich and full; and

**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 is an accepted national event celebrating the contributions of African American people in the development of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, each February, communities across Oregon join to celebrate Black History Month and provide Oregonians with an opportunity to pay tribute to the African American community and the richness of Black culture that has helped shape our state and city; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time for all citizens of the City of Salem to reflect on the history, significant contributions, and accomplishments as well as remember those Black Pioneers who advanced civil rights, fortified communities and families, educated their children, and contributed to the communities in which they lived; and

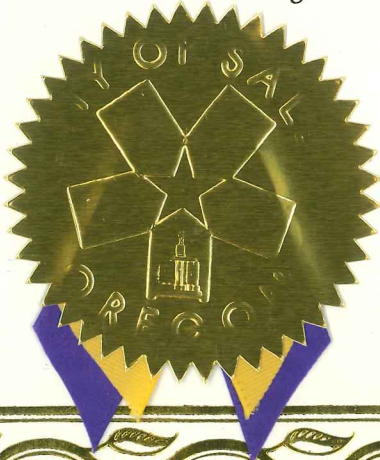
**WHEREAS**, we pay global and local tribute to African American history and we recognize the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers for their focus and effort to make known the Oregon African American story and contributions; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2018, as

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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

**DATED** this twenty second day of January, 2018.



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Chuck Bennett  
Mayor