

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners takes pride in recognizing February 2021 as Black History Month, celebrating the many notable contributions that people of African descent have made to our country; and

WHEREAS, “Negro History Week” was first established in 1926 by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), under the leadership of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the famed African American historian known as the “Father of Black History”; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, ASALH expanded the celebration of Black History Week to a month-long celebration of Black History; and

WHEREAS, ten years later, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 designating February 1986 as the sixtieth annual public and private salute to Black History observed as “National Black (Afro-American) History Month”; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the Diversity of Black people, whether they self-identify as African, African-American or Black; and

WHEREAS, we recognize this year’s theme of “The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity”; and

WHEREAS, we revere the unbreakable bonds within The Black Family despite challenges placed on those ties by persistent and abundant racial disparities in our society, including the criminal justice system, healthcare, education, economic opportunity, and many other areas affecting the Black community; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the systemic racism which has deconstructed societal ideals of a traditional family for many; and

WHEREAS, we now hereby recognize and celebrate all identities of The Black Family structure, whether it is a traditional unit of people related by blood or ancestry, or a purposefully created group of individuals formed from shared compassion, love and support; and

WHEREAS, each Black Family has a unique and interesting story which, although we may not be able to fully understand, we can listen and show that we care, treating each with respect and empathy; and

WHEREAS, recent tragic events have elevated the voice of the Black struggle, it will take more than a raised voice to bring about the lasting institutional and societal change that is desperately needed in our country; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all people to recognize and confront these issues by standing in the gap at every opportunity and bridge barriers with fearlessness and determination to improve lack of representation of Black people; and

WHEREAS, today, we celebrate and affirm the contributions of The Black Family to our community, throughout our state and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 1st – February 28th, 2021, as Black History Month and calls upon the people of Washington County to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities and reflections and to continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, equitable and prosperous for all.

Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair

Recording Secretary

Minute Order