

# 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 honor the contributions, achievements, and involvement of African Americans in building, defending and celebrating the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Black History Month 2023 theme, "Black Resistance" explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings, since the nation's earliest days; and

WHEREAS the history of some of us is the history of all of us, and our history is what shapes us as a city, state and a nation. Thus, 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, the City of Vancouver recognizes that Black History Month is important to heighten our consciousness and awareness of the often overlooked and forgotten deeds, accomplishments and contributions by African Americans to our community; 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 McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, do hereby proclaim the February 2023 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 27th day of February, 2023.

*Anne McEnery-Ogle*

ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR