



A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

WHEREAS, Black History Month, first proposed by scholar Carter G Wilson in 1926, seeks to rightfully center the role of Black Americans in our national narrative; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, 'Black Resistance' shines a light on the countless ways that Black Americans have resisted historic and ongoing racial discrimination and mistreatment throughout hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have consistently pushed the United States to live up to its ideal of freedom, liberty, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the Black community established cultural centers, medical clinics, labor unions, media outlets, financial and educational institutions to resist inequality and to advocate for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Black Colleges and Universities emerged not only as spaces for the development of activists, artists, business owners, educators and other professionals but were also at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power and social justice movements; and

WHEREAS, Black faith institutions have served as spaces where Black communities met to organize resistance efforts and support the fight for civil, social, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, African American spirituals, gospel, folk music, hip-hop and rap have been used to express struggle, hope and solidarity in the face of racial oppressions; and

WHEREAS, Black Athletes have used sports as a platform to advocate for social justice and political agendas, resisting immense pressure against speaking out about political, cultural, or social issues; and

WHEREAS, by resisting, Black people have helped this country embody its democratic values, achieved triumphs, successes, and progress as seen in increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, Black resistance strategies have served as a model for social movements in our country and the legacy and importance of these actions cannot be understated; and

WHEREAS, despite these accomplishments, systemic racism persists in the United States, generating continued Black Resistance that calls for lasting institutional and societal change; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all people to recognize and confront these issues at every opportunity and to bridge barriers with fearlessness and determination to fight against racism and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, this month we celebrate and affirm those who have sacrificed, yet also accomplished much, in the struggle for justice and equality through Black Resistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tanya Graham, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Oregon, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2023 as Black History Month and call upon the people of Ashland to observe this month with appropriate reflection and learning and to continue our efforts to create a more just and equitable community. In Ashland we are Better Together.

Dated this 21st day of February 2023

Tonya Graham, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

