

# Proclamation

## Board of Commissioners for Washington County

### A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board of Commissioners takes pride in recognizing February 2019 as Black History Month, celebrating the many contributions that people of African descent have made throughout our nation's history; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme, "*Black Migrations*," focuses specifically on the movement of people of African heritage to new destinations and social realities in the *twentieth century*, it does not forget the early African diaspora in which millions of Africans were forcibly taken to the Americas in abhorrent conditions and enslaved; and

**WHEREAS**, the emphasis on *Black Migrations* not only provides the framework for many experiences related to hardship and oppression across America and within our own community, these migrations have also led to opportunities for African Americans to resist and overcome racial discrimination including monumental efforts such as the battle for freedom during the Civil War, hard-won victories to end segregation and continued efforts toward equality with the Black Lives Matter movement of today; and

**WHEREAS**, *Black Migrations* have contributed to economic, political and social achievements and have helped to create strong and distinct communities that support everything from black-owned businesses, hospitals, schools, churches and other institutions to major cultural transformations including the creation of art genres such as the blues, jazz, Harlem Renaissance poetry, theater, cinema, rap and hip-hop, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, we commend the many achievements, successes and notable contributions of people of African descent in all fields of endeavor, including those who, over the last 20 years, make up the fastest-growing segment of the country's foreign-born population in a new migration movement from Africa and the Caribbean, in yet another chapter of the Black journey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this fifth day of February, 2019, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim February 1st – February 28th, 2019, as Black History Month, and calls on the people of Washington County to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

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Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair

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Recording Secretary

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Minute Order