

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners takes pride in recognizing February 2023 as Black History Month, honoring the many notable contributions that people of African descent have made to our country; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the diversity of Black people in Washington County, the State of Oregon, our nation and the Black diaspora, whether they self-identify as African, African American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, or Black; and

WHEREAS, we recognize this year's Black History Month theme of "Black Resistance," shining a light on the countless ways that Black Americans have resisted historic and ongoing racial discrimination, oppression and mistreatment throughout hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, Black people have had to consistently push the United States to live up to its ideals 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 in order to resist inequality and to advocate for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Historically 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 for nearly 200 years; and

WHEREAS, Black faith institutions have traditionally 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 oppression; 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 the United States more fully embody its democratic values, achieved triumphs, successes and progress as seen in the end of chattel slavery, dismantling of Jim Crow segregation, 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 increased representation of Black experiences in media; and

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

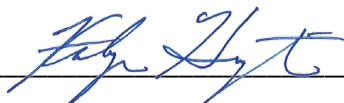
WHEREAS, despite these accomplishments, systemic racism persists in the United States, generating continued Black Resistance that calls for lasting institutional and societal change so desperately needed in our country; and

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 fight against racism and bigotry and improve lack of representation of Black people; and

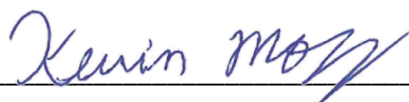
WHEREAS, today, we celebrate and affirm those who have sacrificed, yet also accomplished much, in the struggle for justice and equality through Black Resistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim February 1st – February 28th, 2023, 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

23-29

Minute Order