

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2022

Black History Month

WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War and passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865 legally ended 250 years of chattel slavery for African Americans in the United States, but Black Americans continued to face legal and cultural oppression and discrimination through the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and even into today; and

WHEREAS, the success of our nation has only been possible through the contributions of Black residents and citizens throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, National African American History Month first originated as Negro History Week in 1926 as part of an initiative by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans and to enhance knowledge about African American history, and the national theme for 2022 is “Black Health and Wellness” highlighting the special health challenges that have faced the Black community; and

WHEREAS, the rise in the number of African Americans elected to public office, as well as their growing contributions to the fields such as government, business, medicine, science, the arts, media, and education should be acknowledged, celebrated, and taught in our schools; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama to be the first Black President of the United States and in 2020 elected Kamala Harris to be the first Black/South Asian American and first Black woman as Vice President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2020, John Lewis, congressman, original Freedom Rider, and civil rights icon, passed away and was recognized as a towering figure of the Civil Rights Era; and

WHEREAS, throughout the novel coronavirus pandemic the disproportionate hardships that Black Americans are burdened with have been brought to the forefront of national policy conversations; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2020, Americans of all colors and creeds gathered together across the country to protest the continued mistreatment of Black residents and citizens of the United States and to support the Black Lives Matter movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recognize the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead; we acknowledge the value of African American residents to the strength, health, and richness of San Mateo County; promote greater awareness, education, and celebration of Black History Month; and encourage schools and residents to join us in understanding and addressing the pernicious legacy of slavery and continued discrimination on the African American community and our society.

Dated: February 8, 2022