

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2024 AS

Black History Month

WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a 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, however, since our Nation’s inception, institutional and structural racism and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors of society that have lasting negative consequences for our communities, widening racial disparities in incarceration, health outcomes, education, wealth, and nearly every measurement of societal outcomes; 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 2024 is “African Americans and the Arts” in recognition of the significant impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more; 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 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, since the summer of 2020, Americans of all colors and creeds have gathered to protest the continued mistreatment of Black Americans and to support the Black Lives Matter movement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recognizes 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; acknowledges the value of African American residents to the strength, health, and richness of San Mateo County; promotes greater awareness, education, and celebration of Black History Month; encourages 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; strives to interrupt the overrepresentation of African American people in our criminal justice system; will combat disparities in health outcomes; and seeks to end institutional and structural racism in all its forms.

Dated: February 13, 2024

SUPERVISORS:

WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors