

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Proclamation Declaring February Black History Month in Shoreline		
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation, Cultural and Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Sunni Tolton, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proclamation

ISSUE STATEMENT:

Harvard educated historian Carter G. Woodson created and proclaimed the first week of February Negro History Week in 1926 in order to raise awareness of the many contributions African Americans have made to the United States and civilization overall. February was also selected because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in February. The celebration was expanded to a month-long event in 1976 and since then, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

African Americans have influenced and made countless contributions and sacrifices to local, national, and global development in economics, arts and culture, science, medicine, industry, and other areas throughout history to present day. Black History Month highlights that to fully understand U.S. history, we must learn and recognize the role of African Americans which has often been ignored or denied.

The [Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(ASALH\)](#), whose mission is to promote, preserve, and share information about Black culture and history, sets the theme for Black History Month each year. The 2021 [Black History Month](#) theme is “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity”, which explores the complexity and rich history of Black families through the African diaspora and its multifaceted dynamics throughout history.

This proclamation recognizes the month of February as Black History Month, a time in which all residents are encouraged to learn and reflect on history and achievements of African Americans and the past and current impacts on our lives.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Mayor announce the issuance of the proclamation.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month was formally adopted in 1976 to honor and affirm the importance of the achievements Black people have made throughout U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, Black people have made valuable and lasting contributions locally, nationally, and globally; achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, we recognize Black people have been, and continue to be, leaders in the fight against prejudice and racism; advancing the causes of civil rights; and strengthening families and communities; and

WHEREAS, our Black community members bear the worst abuses of racism and anti-Blackness, while continuing to give their time, talents, knowledge, and other resources which contribute to vitality of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to building an anti-racist community by working in cooperation with our Black community leaders and partners to dismantle institutional racism through meaningful actions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Will Hall, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim February 2021 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

And encourage all residents to learn more about the history, contributions, and achievements of Black people past and present.

Will Hall, Mayor