

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Proclamation Declaring February 2023 Black History Month in Shoreline		
DEPARTMENT:	Community Services		
PRESENTED BY:	Sunni Tolton		
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 selected because both 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. We must learn and recognize the role of African Americans have played throughout U.S. history which has often been ignored, misrepresented, 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 [2023 Black History Month theme is Black Resistance](#). This theme which recognizes the resilience necessary to survive the multiple forms of racial oppression faced by Black people every day. Every advancement, improvement, and right has been gained through resistance. Civil rights activist John Lewis said, "Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

This proclamation recognizes the month of February as Black History Month as a time to celebrate Black history and encourages all residents to learn and reflect on the achievements of African Americans and current impacts on our lives not only in February, but every month throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Approved By: City Manager **BE** 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith Scully, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim February 2023 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Keith Scully, Mayor