

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### **IN HONOR OF FEBRUARY 2018 AS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, African American History Month in February celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made and recognizes the achievements and the central role of African Americans in US history; and

**WHEREAS**, African American History Month had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926, the particular week selected for the inclusion of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986 Congress passed Public Law 99-244 which designated February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month."; and

**WHEREAS**, President Ronald Regan declared in 1986, "the American experience and character can never be fully grasped until the knowledge of black history assumes its rightful place in our schools and our scholarship", and

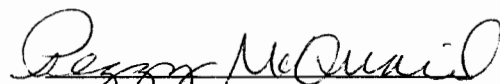
**WHEREAS**, the 2018 theme, "African Americans in Times of War," commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. Those very concepts provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present "War against Terrorism"; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month reminds us of the struggles by African Americans for equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination which began hundreds of years ago and have not yet ended; and

**WHEREAS**, this celebration also acknowledges the important though often untold roles and achievements African Americans have played in our history, identity, culture, economy, literature, sports and politics; and

**WHEREAS**, other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim February 2018 as African American History Month in the City of Albany. We acknowledge the contributions of African Americans in our community and recognize that our journey to a fully inclusive society is not yet over.

  
Peggy McQuaid, Mayor