

City of Albany

Proclamation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY 2021

It is vital we recognize and celebrate the different races, nationalities, and backgrounds that have shaped our City, like all cities in this state and nation. African Americans are imbued with a unique strength and resilience rooted in their struggles against slavery, many forms of oppression, deep-rooted adversity, and violent opposition to their demands for equality and change, and their contributions and achievements are respected and greatly valued in the City of Albany.

WHEREAS, the month of February is designated Black History Month to remember and reflect on the tribulations faced by the African American community and to learn from their vibrant culture and history and to celebrate their many invaluable contributions; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the history and contributions of African-American citizens were consistently overlooked, misinterpreted, and undervalued in the curriculum of public education institutions prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, restrictive deeds and discriminatory lending and real estate practices prevented Black families from moving into many areas, and economic inequities continue to make it difficult for many African American families to afford to live in neighborhoods with highly successful schools, and

WHEREAS, Black History Month reminds us that African Americans' struggles for equal opportunity and against discrimination began hundreds of years ago and have not yet ended; and

WHEREAS, The Black History Month 2021 theme, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States; 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, inventions, sports, science, medicine and politics; and

WHEREAS, we recognize our Black elected officials in the City that began with Joyce Jackson, first Black Mayor; Ge'Nell Gary, second Black Mayor; Brian Doss, first Black male AUSD Board member; Gayle Tapscott, first Black female AUSD Board member; Melissa Boyd, second Black female AUSD Board member; Dr. Frank Wells, first Black Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, we also uplift Black-owned businesses including but not limited to; Beacon Home Care, Freeman Insurance Services, Mr. C's Lizzy Cajun Cuisine, Heal Pilates, and G.F. Brown Insurance Services contribute greatly to the City's economic development and diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Albany City Council does hereby proclaim February 2021 as Black 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.

Date: February 1, 2021



GE'NELL GARY, MBA - MAYOR