

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*



### **IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH February 2024**

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

**WHEREAS**, historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and 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**, during Black History Month, we remember and reflect on the struggles faced by African Americans to be treated equally throughout their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have achieved triumphs, and progress as seen in the end of chattel slavery, dismantling of Jim and Jane Crow segregation in the South, increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964, the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in Washington DC; and

**WHEREAS**, the selected theme for 2024 “African Americans and the Arts” explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression; and

**WHEREAS**, African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the African American influence has been paramount and the vibrancy of Black history, culture and art has enriched every aspect of American life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany would like to acknowledge and recognize the Albany Unified School District Black Parent Advisory Group (BPAG) for their dedicated and ongoing work in the community to create, foster and promote equitable access for African American students and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize February 2024 as Black History Month and calls upon our community members to honor African Americans while learning more about their history.



JOHN MIKI, MAYOR