



Gahanna

Proclamation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2021

WHEREAS: Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, honors the extraordinary achievements and contributions of African Americans in shaping U.S. history, and their struggles for freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS: The celebration began as “Negro History Week” in 1926, the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher, who believed that the teaching of black history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society; and

WHEREAS: Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History chose to launch “Negro History Week” in the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two prominent figures in the history of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS: By the mid-1960s, the most popular textbook for eighth-grade U.S. history classes mentioned only two black people in the century of history since the Civil War, leading black educators and students at Kent State University to propose the first “Black History Month” in February 1969; and

WHEREAS: Black History Month was later celebrated all across the country in 1976, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial, urging Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”; and

WHEREAS: The observance of Black History Month calls our nation’s attention to our collective endeavors to create a world that lives up to ideals of equality for all, and that deepens our understanding and appreciation for all of those who played a part in writing the story of our nation’s history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to celebrate the many achievements of Black Americans in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion. I hereby do proclaim the month of February 2021, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 1st day of February in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.




Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor