



A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2026 AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF CORA THURMAN

WHEREAS, 2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history that began as Negro History Week, promoted Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926; and

WHEREAS, President Gerald Ford made Black History Month a national holiday after recognizing "the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," in his 1976 speech to mark the United States Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we honor the extraordinary contributions of Black American leaders in the myriad of disciplines in which they shape our nation and local community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Gahanna takes this opportunity to recognize Cora Thurman, a pioneering educator whose remarkable 41-year career, from 1915 to 1957, helped expand opportunity and cultivate belonging for countless students in Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cora Thurman made history in 1913 as the first African American student to graduate from Gahanna High School, demonstrating profound courage and determination in pursuing her own education at a time when racial barriers sought to limit her potential; and

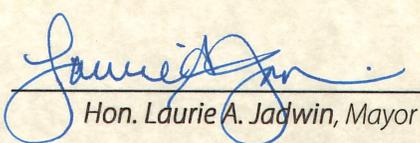
WHEREAS, Throughout her life's work, Cora Thurman embodied the belief that all people have value and deserve the chance to share their gifts, reminding us that history is shaped not only by extraordinary figures but by everyday people who inspire the extraordinary in others; and

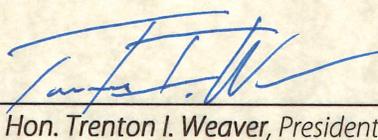
WHEREAS, The City of Gahanna takes pride in celebrating the rich history of the Black and African American community and recognizing their profound impact within Gahanna, across Ohio, and throughout the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL AND PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, STATE OF OHIO:

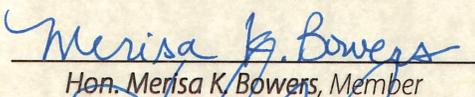
Section 1. That the City of Gahanna does hereby recognize February 2026 as Black History Month and honors Cora Thurman for her enduring contributions to education, equity, and community uplift.

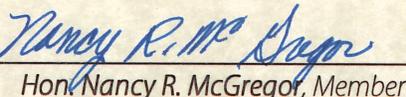
Section 2. That this Joint Resolution and Proclamation shall be in full force and effect at the earliest period allowed by law.

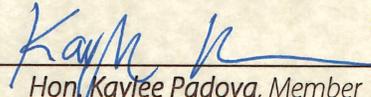

Hon. Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor


Hon. Trenton I. Weaver, President

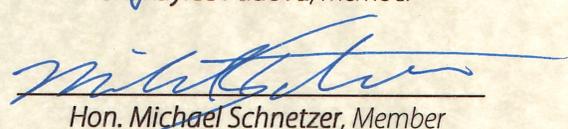

Hon. Jamille Jones, Vice President


Hon. Merisa K. Bowers, Member


Hon. Nancy R. McGregor, Member


Hon. Kaylee Padova, Member


Hon. Stephen A. Renner, Member


Hon. Michael Schnetzer, Member

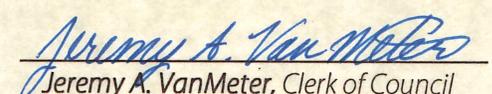
Approved:


Hon. Priya D. Tamarasan, City Attorney

Presented to Clemya Matthews & Tom Gregory



Attest: Certified as passed this 2nd day of February 2026, RES-0002-2026.


Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council