

## Proclamation BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## FEBRUARY 2023

**WHEREAS:** Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual celebration of the extraordinary achievements, contributions and rich heritage of Black 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: President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, 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; and

WHEREAS: As the home of the Big Walnut Country Club, one of the first country clubs in the United States that served as a social, political and professional hub for the Black community, the City of Gahanna is honored to have had a role in the history of the growth of Central Ohio's Black population in the decades leading to the Civil Rights movement; and

WHEREAS: The City of Gahanna is proud to recognize and congratulate resident and student Jasmine Davis, who was recently named Little Miss Black USofA – Ohio, an organization that celebrates, honors and promotes Black legacy, beauty, and brilliance.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, urge Gahanna citizens to honor the contributions and legacy of the Black and African American community in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion, and do hereby proclaim the month of February 2023 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor