



**A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION  
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS  
“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”  
AND HONORING  
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS  
IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA**

**WHEREAS**, Historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, established Negro History Week in 1926, drawing attention to the contributions of Black Americans. Dr. Woodson selected February to align with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two pivotal figures in Black history; and

**WHEREAS**, Fifty years later, Congress expanded this observance to Black History Month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford called on Americans to honor "the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history" during 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 local business owner, Jewel Woods, M.A., MSW, LISW-S, Founder and Clinical Director Male Behavioral Health and the Center for Men & Boys, whose groundbreaking work addresses the critical mental health needs of men and boys, particularly within the Black community; and

**WHEREAS**, Jewel Woods’ dedication to advancing mental health equity and fostering the well-being of families aligns with the principles of Black History Month, which celebrates not only the achievements of Black Americans but also the ongoing work to create stronger, healthier communities; and

~~**WHEREAS**, Black Americans have nobly fought for fair wages, improved working conditions, and equal opportunities, impacting our nation’s labor legacy for the better; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, The 2025 theme for Black History Month, established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), is “African Americans and Labor,” highlighting the vital contributions and resilience of Black individuals in the workforce throughout history; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, The City of Gahanna takes this opportunity to recognize Jewel Woods, M.A., MSW, LISW-S, Founder and Clinical Director of Male Behavioral Health and the Center for Men & Boys, as a local business owner who exemplifies this triumph of excellence and dedication by providing essential services that enhance the well-being of our community; and~~

**WHEREAS**, The Gahanna City Council and Mayor of the City of Gahanna take pride in celebrating the Black and African American community’s rich history and recognizing its 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 this Council and Mayor do hereby recognize February 2025 as Black History Month for the City of Gahanna.

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