



Gahanna

Proclamation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2022

WHEREAS: Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual celebration of the extraordinary achievements and contributions 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 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; and

WHEREAS: Ohio Civil Rights leader Nimrod B. Allen and seven (7) other prominent Black leaders established the Big Walnut Country Club in 1927 on what is now one of Gahanna’s most beloved parks – Friendship Park; and

WHEREAS: The Big Walnut Country Club was one of the first Black country clubs in the United States and was instrumental in the fight for civil rights and equality under the law.

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 2022, 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 7th day of February in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two.


Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor