

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 96

Approved February 21, 2018

WHEREAS, In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered the “Father of Black History”, launched the celebration of Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, Negro History Week was celebrated in the second week of February to correspond with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, the Black United Students and black educators at Kent State University proposed celebrating a Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, at the United States Bicentennial celebration, President Gerald Ford recognized the entire month of February as Black History Month, urging American citizens to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”; and

WHEREAS, During the month of February, observances are held to increase public awareness and knowledge of the importance of black history in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The African-American community has made countless contributions to the various fields as scientists, educators, artists, historians, writers, business leaders, athletes, political leaders, and influential thinkers; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month serves as a reminder of all those who fought and continue to fight for social justice, civil rights, and equality; and

WHEREAS, As part of the City of Providence’s Black History Month festivities, for the past fifteen years, local individuals in the Providence community have been recognized for their contributions to civil rights, social justice, and equality with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hall of Fame award; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the Providence City Council, in collaboration with the City Archives, hosts an exhibit every February to honor and recognize the African-American community of Providence and their contributions to the City and State of Rhode Island.

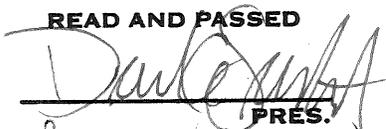
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes and celebrates February 2018 as Black History Month and honors the innumerable contributions of African-Americans to Providence, Rhode Island, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City Council encourages the celebration of Black History Month throughout the City of Providence as an opportunity to learn and reflect on the history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the future.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**FEB 15 2018**

**READ AND PASSED**

  
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**PRES.**

  
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**CLERK**

**I HEREBY APPROVE.**

  
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**Mayor**

Date: 2/21/18