



Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as national **Black History Month** to honor and affirm the importance of Black history throughout our American experience; and

WHEREAS, the United States joins other countries around the world in devoting a month to recognize Black history, including Canada and the United Kingdom; and,

WHEREAS, the observance of **Black History Month** began in 1926, when Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse Moorland sponsored the first national Negro History Week, which was celebrated the second week in February, and later in the 1960s as part of the Civil Rights Movement the observance evolved into **Black History Month**; and

WHEREAS, much of the City of Gastonia's honor, strength, and success can be attributed to the diversity of cultures and traditions that are celebrated by the residents of this great City; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played significant roles and made lasting contributions to our City's history and the history of North Carolina's economic, cultural, spiritual and political development, while working tirelessly to contribute to every aspect of American society including business, education, politics, science, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, **Black History Month** is a time for all Americans to remember the contributions and legacy of those who helped build our nation, fought against prejudice to secure lives of dignity and opportunity for all of our citizens, advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans, and strengthened our families and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John D. Bridgeman, Mayor, do hereby encourage all residents to join me in honoring the many contributions made by African Americans to our City, State, and Nation, and to participate in the many educational and inspirational events celebrating

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 7th day of February, two thousand and seventeen.

John D. Bridgeman, Mayor

Attest:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk