

Proclamation

Recognizing Black History Month February 2022

WHEREAS, over 400 years ago the first African Americans arrived in the United States, forever changing the course of our country; the legacy of this event affects us all, and understanding the complex history of race in America helps us to come together as Americans; and

WHEREAS, the first event was celebrated during a week in February 1926, encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in African American history, and in 1976 the week-long celebration was extended to the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month also creates a specific opportunity for all people in Redwood City to reflect on and celebrate the historic and current accomplishments of African American people, both nationally and locally; and

WHEREAS, African Americans helped develop our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and unrecorded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City believes every person has the freedom to feel valued and respected, and condemns racism in rhetoric or action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City aims to advance racial equity through mindful governance practices, review neutral policies and its impacts; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020 the City Council adopted a resolution declaring that Black Lives Matter, acknowledging the ongoing reality of racial inequity and reaffirming the City's commitment to racial equity; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020 the City Council further committed to anti-racist action by adding Equity as a Strategic Plan Guiding Principle, affirming that Redwood City will put equity first and urging a collective restart so that policies serve the entire community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, GISELLE HALE, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY, on behalf of the City Council and the people of the City of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim February 2022 as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Redwood City and encourage all residents to observe this month in honor of the history made by Black Americans and continue our efforts to create a community that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

Date: February 4, 2022





Giselle Hale, Mayor



Diana Reddy, Vice Mayor



Alicia C. Aguirre, Council Member



Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Council Member



Jeff Gee, Council Member



Diane Howard, Council Member



Michael A. Smith, Council Member