

# Proclamation

## Recognizing Black History Month February 2021

**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**, African American culture has been a crucial element of the history of the United States, deserving of respect, honor and gratitude; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Americans have made foundational cultural, educational, spiritual and patriotic contributions to the United States of America despite and throughout generations of racial oppression and those contributions are nationally honored every February as Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, was borne of Carter G. Woodson's work in 1926 to educate African American youth about their heritage and the achievements of their ancestors; 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**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sequoia Union High School Black Student Union (BSU) has provided a space of support and care for Black students and celebrated Black accomplishment through the Sequoia Union High School District's African American Baccalaureate ceremony; and

**WHEREAS**, Taja Henderson and Adili Skillin have faithfully supported the Black Student Union for twenty-five years, coordinating BSU activities, connecting youth to supportive people and opportunities in the Redwood City community, and improving the lives of African American and all children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sequoia Black Student Union represents voices of a next generation of Black leaders in our Redwood City community, whose aspirations and perspectives must be part of planning for our collective future.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, DIANE HOWARD, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY**, on behalf of the City Council and the people of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim February 2021 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 22, 2021



Handwritten signature of Diane Howard in black ink.

Diane Howard, Mayor

Handwritten signature of Giselle Hale in black ink.

Giselle Hale, Vice Mayor

Handwritten signature of Alicia Aguirre in black ink.

Alicia Aguirre, Council Member

Handwritten signature of Lissette Espinoza-Garnica in black ink.

Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Council Member

Handwritten signature of Jeff Gee in blue ink.

Jeff Gee, Council Member

Handwritten signature of Diana Reddy in blue ink.

Diana Reddy, Council Member

Handwritten signature of Michael Smith in blue ink.

Michael Smith, Council Member