

City of Pleasant Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1926, famous historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, established what would become Black History Month to bring special awareness of African American accomplishments and contributions to American history; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have contributed to the rich fabric and diversity of America and have made significant strides in civil rights, law, medicine, technology, business, food, music, literature, education, sports, entertainment, journalism and the arts; and

WHEREAS, in 1619, the first documented enslaved Africans arrived at the English colonies at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on the English ships White Lion and Treasurer, and these individuals were sold in exchange for provisions, while others were transported to Jamestown, where they were sold; and

WHEREAS, between 1863 and 1865, hundreds of Black men fought in the American Civil War and died as enlisted men in the United States Colored Troops, seeking life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as a free people; and

WHEREAS, after 1865, and the ratification of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the complete freedom and civil rights granted to previously enslaved men, women, and children was subverted by brutal Jim Crow laws, preventing their ability to live as fully free citizens and pursue life, liberty and happiness as guaranteed to white citizens; and

WHEREAS, between 1954 and 1968, African American activists, in particular women, spearheaded the Civil Rights Movement, fought for social justice and constitutional rights, and organized sit-ins, workshops, boycotts, and grassroots campaigns; and

WHEREAS, attacks on the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments continue to persist in the 21st century for African Americans, and the City of Pleasant Hill upholds the rights bestowed upon its citizens under these amendments; and

WHEREAS, today, African Americans continue to make gains in public office, education, and professional fields, and as entrepreneurs, as well as fight for an inclusive vision of liberty, justice, and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pleasant Hill will join with the nation in celebrating the 96th National Black History Month by honoring the essential contributions, sacrifices, and accomplishments African American and Black people have made to the U.S. as part of American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL G. HARRIS, OD, Mayor of the City of Pleasant Hill, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim February, 2022 as

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

in the CITY OF PLEASANT HILL, and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.



MICHAEL G. HARRIS, OD, Mayor
February 7, 2022