



RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Jenkins, Payne, Wonsley, Rainville, Vetaw, Ellison,
Osman, Cashman, Chavez, Chughtai, Koski, Chowdhury, and Palmisano

HONORING FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Whereas: Since 1926, and the creation of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the accomplishments of persons of African descent have been recognized each February; and
- Whereas: The month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments Black Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and
- Whereas: Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders with special ceremonies and activities; and
- Whereas: In 2016 to celebrate Black History Month, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights introduced *Future History Makers*, renamed to *History Makers at Home*, a profile series featuring emerging and mid-career leaders from the Twin Cities African American community who share the department's ideals of advancing civil rights and removing barriers to equity; and
- Whereas: The department identifies trendsetters in the areas of business, criminal justice, education, economic development, health, philanthropy, housing, and government and defined them as *History Makers at Home*; and
- Whereas: The department also recognizes the kinship of the work of trend-setting history makers to those who are legacy trailblazers; and
- Whereas: To support and foster our own *History Makers at Home* in the City of Minneapolis enterprise, an employee resource group to support Black City employees, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network, was created on February 23, 2017; and
- Whereas: Each week throughout Black History Month, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network uplifts *History Makers at Home*, hosting events that shine the light on dedicated leaders in the Twin Cities region and shares the stories of those who are making a positive impact and inspiring future generations as well as recognizes Legacy Leaders who paved the path; and
- Whereas: On February 23, 2024, the Minneapolis Black Employees Network will proudly celebrate its seven-year anniversary; and
- Whereas: The Minneapolis Black Employee Network offers Black City employees peer support, mentoring, professional development, career counseling, and wellbeing supportive services; and
- Whereas: The Minneapolis Black Employee Network offers the City of Minneapolis recommendations on action steps to recruit, retain, support, and engage Black leaders to the City's workforce; and
- Whereas: Black history and the contributions of peoples of African ascent are honored and uplifted at the City of Minneapolis not only in the month of February but throughout the entire year; and
- Whereas: The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, recognizes Juneteenth as an official holiday for employees and celebrates the week with activities to commemorate June 19, 1865. On this day what was believed to be the last of enslaved persons in the United States of America received news of their entitlement to natural born human rights under the law, bestowed upon them two and a half years earlier when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863; and
- Whereas: Each year in late July, to kickoff August as Black Business Month, we celebrate Black Business Week, created in 2019, by encouraging patronage of Black owned businesses and bringing city officials and other governmental and civic leaders, leaders of economic development organizations, and members of the business and broader community together to address the unique experiences of Black businesses. This is an effort to increase and improve connections, ownership, funding opportunities, and business technical assistance for Black entrepreneurs; and
- Whereas: The City Council, in 2020, adopted a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency, committing the City of Minneapolis to recognize the severe impact of racism on the well-being of residents and city overall, and allocate funding, staff, and additional resources to actively engage in racial equity in order to name, reverse, and repair the harm done to Black, Indigenous, and people of color in this City; and

Whereas: The City Council, in 2020, adopted a resolution establishing a truth and reconciliation process for the City of Minneapolis. Believed to be the first of its kind to focus on, both, historically Black American descendants of slavery and American Indian communities, the work of this body will help create a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to begin implementing specific solutions to specific harms that created and perpetuate racial disparities among both groups; and

Whereas: Each year we will continue to highlight dedicated Black leaders in Minneapolis and the Twin Cities region;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby commemorate the achievements of Black Americans as history makers and legacy trailblazers and their role in the development of the region and the nation since its inception, and we join in recognizing the annual celebration of Black History Month and the anniversary of the Minneapolis Black Employee Network.

Passed this the Twenty-fifth Day of January 2024

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk