



Village Manager's Office

SUBJECT: 2022 National Black History Month Recognition Proclamation

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2022

FROM: [Alex Arteaga](#), Management Analyst
[Erik Hallgren](#), Assistant Village Manager

BUDGET IMPACT: None

Recommended Motion

Proclamation designating the month of February 2022 as National Black History Month in the Village of Wilmette.

Background

The Village's Human Relations Commission has endorsed Village proclamations recognizing the celebration of various cultural groups including Black History Month. As such, staff wanted to provide the Village Board with information regarding the history of this celebration.

The observation of Black History Month started in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) conceived and announced Negro History Week, first celebrated during a week in February 1926. In 1976, the celebration became a month-long event. Every President since Gerald Ford has annually declared February National Black History Month, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (formally ASNLH) continues to promote the study of Black history all year. The Month of February was selected since it encompasses the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Black History Month is observed annually in February to celebrate the contributions that members of the Black community have made to American history, society, and culture.

In proclaiming Black History Month, Wilmette residents are encouraged to learn about the history of the Black experience in America and to celebrate this month with appropriate programs and activities. National Black History Month information and resources can be found at <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/>. Additionally, Wilmette residents can learn local history and local events celebrating Black History Month by visiting <https://www.wilmette.com/2022/02/03/2022-black-history-month-recognition/>.

Documents Attached

1. 2022 National Black History Month Proclamation



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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, all residents deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion and justice regardless of gender, age, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, or sensory ability; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Wilmette supports the rights of every individual to experience equality of treatment and values our diverse population of residents, businesses, and visitors, recognizing that this diversity is one of this community's greatest strengths; and,

WHEREAS, February is annually celebrated as National Black History Month and recognizes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and,

WHEREAS, people of African American descent comprise 1 percent of the Village's population, and have made valuable contributions to the growth of the United States and the local community and it is critically important that we recognize their accomplishments; and,

WHEREAS, individuals are encouraged to learn about the African American experience in Wilmette and the United States and to celebrate this month by recognizing the contributions that African American individuals have made to our society. Resources can be found at <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/> and <https://www.wilmette.com/2022/02/03/2022-black-history-month-recognition/>.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Senta Plunkett, Village President of Wilmette, Illinois, proclaim February 2022 as National Black History Month and call upon all people of Wilmette, Illinois, to honor and celebrate the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, our state, and our nation.

Dated this 8th day of February 2022.

Senta Plunkett
Village President