

## **PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, in February, America recognizes and reflects on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans in the storied history of our nation and toward the ongoing struggle to keep America's founding promise of a more perfect and more equal union; and*

*WHEREAS, the African American experience is woven into the historical fabric of the Pacific Northwest: from York's full membership in the Lewis and Clark Expedition, through the first African American pioneer in the Northwest, George W. Bush, who established Bush Prairie, now known as our neighbor, the City of Tumwater, and on through today; and*

*WHEREAS, the history of the City of Olympia would be far less rich and diverse without the contributions of Olympia's African American residents – such as Rebecca Howard, the beloved 19th Century entrepreneur, who owned and managed the popular Pacific House in downtown Olympia; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Olympia proudly embraces the cultural diversity of our community, and honors organizations, families, and individuals of African American descent in appreciation of their invaluable contributions that continue to enrich the history and culture of our city, and unite and sustain us as a community;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim the month of February 2018 as*

### ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

*in the City of Olympia and encourage all Olympians to reflect the African American experience and work toward a nation where all citizens have equal opportunity to thrive.*

***SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.***

***OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL***

***Cheryl Selby  
Mayor***