

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in February, America recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans in the storied history of our nation and reflects on 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, which is today our neighbor, the City of Tumwater; 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, the summer of 2020 broke open festering wounds of racial injustice in America and reminded us of how much work is left undone to redeem the nation from its original sin: racism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has committed to do its part to help make the City and the community a more equitable, more welcoming and more just place to live and work; 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.

OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL

***Cheryl Selby
Mayor***