

**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, during African American History Month, the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development are celebrated; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Blacks in American History, advance the cause of civil rights and strengthen families, communities, and the nation; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and initiated Negro History Week in 1926; and*

*WHEREAS, the first kidnapped Africans were brought to this country 400 years ago marking the beginning of legalized slavery that lasted for 250 years, until Emancipation in 1863; and*

*WHEREAS, as a result of their determination, hard work, and perseverance against all odds, African Americans have made valuable and lasting contributions to our community, the state, and the nation; achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, the military, sports, and the arts; and*

*WHEREAS, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote" emphasizes the significance of African American participation in the electoral process at all levels of society;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Olympia City Council does hereby proclaim  
FEBRUARY 2020 to be*

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

*in the City of Olympia and urges all citizens to recognize the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.*

*SIGNED IN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
FEBRUARY, 2020.*

**OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL**

*Cheryl Selby  
Mayor*