



Proclamation

Of the Mayor

Of the City of Los Altos, California

WHEREAS, Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual celebration and recognition of achievements by Black Americans and a time for acknowledging their important role in U.S. history and in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Carter Goodwin Wilson, a Black historian, recognized the accomplishments of Black American citizens and, on February 7, 1926, created one of the cultural landmarks of contemporary American, “Negro History Week.” The second week of February was chosen for the event because it coincided with the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and Frederick Douglass on February 14 in the 1960s, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, “Negro History Week” was changed to “Black History Week”; and

WHEREAS, As part of the national Bicentennial Celebration, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Since then, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, The 2024 National Theme for the observance is “African Americans and the Arts”; and acknowledges that African American artists – poets, writers, visual artists, and dancers – have historically served as change agents through their crafts. Drawn from their ancestors’ ancient rites of passage and the shared hopes of liberty, Black artists continue to fuse the rhythmic cadence of creative expressions with the pulsating beats of progress.

WHEREAS, Through the arts, Black people have achieved triumphs, successes and progress as seen in the end of chattel slavery, dismantling Jim and Jane Crow segregation in the South, increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as increased and diverse representation of Black experiences in media. Black artists have served as a model for every other social movement in the country, thus, the legacy and importance of their contributions cannot be understated.

WHEREAS, The City of Los Altos is proud to honor the history and contributions of Black Americans in our community, state, and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan D. Weinberg, Mayor of the City of Los Altos, California, do hereby proclaim February 2024, to be

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

in Los Altos, California, and encourage all community members to join in this special observance, to study the history of Black Americans and their contribution to the arts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Los Altos this 13th day of February 2024.




Jonathan D. Weinberg, MAYOR