



City of Ellensburg

# PROCLAMATION

National Black History Month, 2023  
Black Resistance

**Whereas**, the roots of National Black History Month date to 1865 as the beginning of an annual celebration of emancipation, and Harvard Historian, Carter G. Woodson, the “father of Black History,” began Negro History Week, on February 1, 1926; and

**Whereas**, Negro History Week evolved to “National Black (Afro-American) History Month through Congressional Public Law 99-244 in 1986; and

**Whereas**, we acknowledge that Black History is American History, and support the notion put forth by President Bill Clinton when he described Black history as “America’s struggle to become a more perfect union;” and

**Whereas**, the theme for National Black History month in 2023 is “Black Resistance”, we honor the struggles of all Black Americans during the brutality of slavery, hope of emancipation, and reconstruction, and through the restrictions of Jim Crow laws and redlining.

**Whereas**, we recognize that Black Americans such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr. helped millions of Black Americans navigate the turbulence of their times and laid the groundwork for the extraordinary courage, faith and determination all Black Americans utilized to build lives for themselves and their families; and

**Whereas**, we celebrate the contributions of numerous Black Americans to our nation’s culture, the sciences, the arts, and education as we acknowledge the outstanding leadership of General Colin Powell, poet bell hooks, and Congressman John Lewis on behalf of civil rights for all Americans; and

**Whereas**, we recognize and support the struggle and resistance Black Americans continue to experience on their journey to peace, acceptance, equity and inclusion in American society; and

**Now, Therefore**, the City Council of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim February 2023 as National Black History Month in Ellensburg, honors the courage and contributions of Black Americans to our city, state, and nation, and commits our efforts to make Ellensburg a city where everyone belongs and feels welcome.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

Attest:  
City Clerk

  
Nancy Ljilquist, Mayor