

Proclamation



PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LEGACY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AS WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

WHEREAS, The story of America would be woefully incomplete, were we not to honor the legacy, sacrifice, achievements and contributions made by African Americans to the economic, cultural, spiritual and political development of our nation; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first officially recognized in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial. It initially grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, This year we focus our observance on, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity." We are reminded through this theme, that the Black family knows no one location or definition, but is instead beautifully complex. And, it is this complexity that offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present; and

WHEREAS, The events of this past year have profoundly underscored the importance of teaching Black history, as we have seen how mainstream omission of this history, in all its splendor and disgrace, has fed our nation's legacy of racism and systemic in-equality; and

WHEREAS, Our nation finds itself at a critical moment of reckoning and self-reflection. From reversing inequities in criminal justice and healthcare to reconciling the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Brown communities, there is much work and healing ahead of us; and

WHEREAS, In the midst of this time of struggle and uncertainty, we remain hopeful, we persevere and we celebrate new achievement in the swearing in of our first African American and woman Vice President, Kamala Harris; and

WHEREAS, Jackson is a predominantly African American city, with a proud history of Black achievement and excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In the City of Jackson. I encourage all citizens to take this to celebrate the richness of our diversity and also reflect on all those who have come before us, their sacrifices and their hopes for our future. Let their stories fuel our continued efforts to make Jackson a beacon of possibility and prosperity for all its residents.

Chokwe Antar Lumumba

Mayor, City of Jackson