



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Black History Month is celebrated throughout the nation during the month of February;
and

WHEREAS: Black History Month is a time to honor our diverse ancestry and our hidden history of civic, economic, professional, medical, and artistic achievements; and also serves as a reminder of the challenges that face all people of color, and that the work to eliminate barriers based on prejudice is ongoing; and

WHEREAS: Black Americans continue to make significant contributions to the growth of our nation: in business and philanthropy; as ministers, doctors and nurses; as artists and musicians; as professors and teachers; as lawyers and legislators; as soldiers and leading athletes. Black Americans have earned Olympic Gold Medals; Medals of Honor, and as slaves, built the White House where the first Black President and his family resided for the past eight years; and

WHEREAS: We continue to be inspired by the vision of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and by the vision of local leaders such as former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, Judge Theodore Spearman, Bishop Lawrence Robertson, Lillian and James Walker; and

WHEREAS: Black History Month serves as a reminder of the challenges that face people of color and other marginalized groups. There is still more to be done to ensure equality under the law and equal opportunity; and

WHEREAS: Black History Month's theme for 2017 -- "Healing Our Land, Healing Our History" -- is a reminder to appreciate what connects us, regardless of color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, and disparate abilities. We move forward in the spirit of the Pledge of Allegiance -- "with liberty and justice for all."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Robert Putaansuu**, Mayor of the City of Port Orchard, do hereby proclaim February 2017 as:

Black History Month

in the City of Port Orchard, and urge its citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed the 2nd day of February 2017

Robert Putaansuu, Mayor