



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

**WHEREAS,** on February 12, 1926, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, and for many years, the second week of February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the stories and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stance against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the cause of civil rights, and strengthened families, communities, and our nation; and

**WHEREAS,** all Americans are encouraged to reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor** of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council hereby proclaim February 2023 as Black History Month in the City of Merced and encourage the community to visit a local library, attend a cultural event, and share stories and experiences to continue to celebrate the history and culture of African Americans during Black History Month as well as throughout the year.

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

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*Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced*