



Proclamation

The City of Clayton
State of California

declaring

February as

"Black and African American History Month"

WHEREAS, in 1926, famous historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, established what would become Black History Month to bring special awareness of African American accomplishments and contributions to American history; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have contributed to the rich fabric and diversity of America and have made significant strides in civil rights, law, medicine, technology, business, food, music, literature, education, sports, entertainment, journalism and the arts; and

WHEREAS, in 1619, the first documented enslaved Africans arrived at the English colonies at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on the English ships *White Lion* and *Treasurer*, and these individuals were sold in exchange for provisions, while others were transported to Jamestown, where they were sold; and

WHEREAS, between 1863 and 1865, hundreds of Black men fought in the American Civil War and died as enlisted men in the United States Colored Troops, seeking life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as a free people; and

WHEREAS, after 1865, and the ratification of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the complete freedom and civil rights granted to previously enslaved men, women, and children was subverted by brutal Jim Crow laws, preventing their ability to live as fully free citizens and pursue life, liberty and happiness as guaranteed to white citizens; and

WHEREAS, between 1954 and 1968, African American activists, in particular women, spearheaded the Civil Rights Movement, fought for social justice, constitutional rights, organized sit-ins, workshops, boycotts, and grassroots campaigns; and

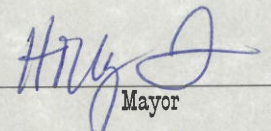
WHEREAS, attacks on the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments continue to persist in the 21st century for African Americans, and the City of Clayton devotes its resources to fulfilling the promises of the Emancipation Proclamation and the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, today, African Americans continue to make gains in public office, education, and professional fields, and as entrepreneurs, as well as fight for an inclusive vision of liberty, justice, and equality for all; and

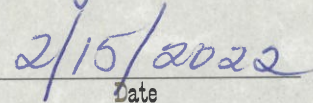
WHEREAS, the City of Clayton, CA will join with the nation in celebrating National Black History Month by honoring the essential contributions, sacrifices and accomplishments African American and Black people have made to the U.S. as part of American history.

Now, Therefore, I, Holly Tillman, Vice Mayor, and on behalf of the entire Clayton City Council, proclaim February as Black and African American History Month in Clayton, CA and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.





Mayor



Date