

**PROCLAMATION TO CELEBRATE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2022**

WHEREAS, Each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations. Shining a light on Black history today is as important to understanding ourselves and growing stronger as a Nation as it has ever been; and

WHEREAS, That is why it is essential that we take time to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Black Americans, honor the legacies and achievements of generations past, reckon with centuries of injustice, and confront those injustices that still fester today; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation was founded on an idea: that everyone is created equal and deserves to be treated with equal dignity throughout our lives. It is a promise we have never fully lived up to but one that we have never, ever walked away from. The long shadows of slavery, Jim Crow, and redlining — and the blight of systemic racism that still diminishes our Nation today — hold America back from reaching our full promise and potential; and

WHEREAS, By facing those tragedies openly and honestly and working together as one people to deliver on America's promise of equity and dignity for all, we become a stronger Nation — a more perfect version of ourselves; and

WHEREAS, Across the generations, countless Black Americans have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to help shape our Nation for the better. Today, Black Americans lead industries and movements for change, serve our communities and our Nation at every level, and advance every field across the board, including arts and sciences, business and law, health and education, and many more. In the face of wounds and obstacles older than our Nation itself, Black Americans can be seen in every part of our society today, strengthening and uplifting all of America; and

WHEREAS, As we celebrate National Black History Month, let us all recommit ourselves to reach for that founding promise. Let us continue to fight for the equity, opportunity, and dignity to which every Black American is due in equal measure. Let us carry forward the work to build an America that is, in the beautiful words of the poet Amanda Gorman, "Bruised, but whole — benevolent, but bold, fierce, and free;" and

WHEREAS, We appreciate and honor the countless achievements of Black Americans and continue the efforts to ensure our community is a welcoming and inclusive place that provides just and equal opportunities for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Troy hereby proclaim the **Month of February 2022 as National Black History Month**. This observance affords a special opportunity to become more knowledgeable about Black heritage, and to honor Black citizens who have contributed to the City of Troy, State of Michigan, and the United States' economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we invite all Troy residents to recognize and celebrate the vital role Black Americans have played in our Nation's history, as well as their outstanding achievements today and into the future. We applaud our own Troy residents and business owners and celebrate their contributions to our community and beyond.

Presented this 14th day of February 2022.