



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: During Black History Month, we recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black people to our nation's social, artistic, cultural, political and economic advancement; and

Whereas: The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. In 1926, Harvard trained historian Carter G. Woodson announced the second week of February to be Negro History Week; and

Whereas: In 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black history throughout the American experience; and

Whereas: The observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a more just society that lives up to its democratic ideals, and serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history; and

Whereas: The disturbing instances of violence against Black community members our nation has endured over the last several years remind us that we have far to go to end racial injustice and inequity in our country and local communities; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue is strongly committed to ensuring access, equity, inclusion and opportunity for all; and

Whereas: We strive to raise awareness of the history and contributions of communities of color through the city's Black History Month events, including a public performance of Living Voices: 'The Right to Dream' in City Hall's council chambers on Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the **month of February 2023 as:**

Black History Month

and urge all citizens to join us as we reflect on our shared history, commemorate and reaffirm the contributions of Black people to our communities, our country, and the world, and continue efforts to battle racism and build a society that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue