



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** the story of Black History Month traces back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week to address the absence and misrepresentation of Black history in the American narrative; and
- Whereas:** in 1970, Black students and educators expanded this observance into a month-long celebration, and in 1976 the President of the United States formally recognized February as Black History Month to honor the central role of Black history in the American experience; and
- Whereas:** Black and African Americans have made profound and enduring contributions to our nation, shaping its social, artistic, cultural, political and economic foundations and enriching the lives of all Americans; and
- Whereas:** the City of Bellevue recognizes the ongoing need to confront racial injustice and inequity, as persistent disparities and continued instances of violence and discrimination against Black Americans remind us that more work remains; and
- Whereas:** the observance of Black History Month calls on us to reflect honestly on our shared history, including the experiences of Caribbean, African and other Black immigrants who have shaped American society, and to recognize the contributions of Black immigrants, including students, refugees and those with Temporary Protected Status, as part of our shared history of resilience.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 2026, as**

Black History Month

in Bellevue and encourage all community members to join in honoring the invaluable contributions of Black Americans to our community and nation, while recommitting to the work of addressing racism and advancing equity so that Bellevue remains a place where everyone can belong and thrive.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue