



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Black students and educators at Kent State University officially established Black History Month in 1970 after early work by historian Carter G. Woodson brought attention to the need for acknowledging and accurately representing Black and African American history; and

Whereas: Beginning in 1976, the U.S. president has declared the month of February as Black History Month to honor and affirm the importance of Black history throughout the American experience; and

Whereas: Black and African Americans have made innumerable contributions to our nation worthy of recognition and celebration, enriching America and the lives of every American through social, artistic, cultural, political and economic advancement; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue recognizes the ongoing need to confront racial injustice and inequity in our nation and local communities, as continuing instances of violence and discrimination against Black Americans demonstrates we have more work to do; and

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

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 2025** as:

Black History Month

and encourage all community members to join us in reflecting on our shared history, honoring the invaluable contributions of Black Americans to our community and nation, and recommitting to the fight against racism in building a society that is more just, inclusive and prosperous for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue