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113-2023

Proclamation

Proclaim February 2023 to be Black History Month

Placed on File

Whereas, the City of Portland takes pride in joining Americans throughout the country in recognizing February 2023 as Black History Month; and

Whereas, Black History Month recognizes and pays tribute to the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of just how intertwined our histories are; and

Whereas, the theme for 2023, “Black Resistance,” allows us a moment of contemplation and reflection on African American’s fight against historic and ongoing oppression in all its forms, including physical, mental, academic, professional, legal, political, and social; and

Whereas, Blacks have found ways to operate outside of the system and foster hope within our own communities to promote and empower Black people to persevere in spite of the intensity of White supremacy that we endure daily; and

Whereas, we give respect and honor to those on whose backs were built the foundations of today’s Civil Rights movements at the cost of their blood, sweat, tears, and sacrifice, sometimes figuratively and sometimes literally, recognizing the frequency of comparison to the Black experience that many movements have relied upon and included in their narratives; and

Whereas, the Black voice refuses to be silenced. As a people we will continue to rise, evolve, and elevate to higher heights and levels with no regard for the literal and figurative hurdles that have been set before us for generations. Our truth and voices cannot be muted; our voices are powerful, influential, and encouraging, and our truth writes the real narrative of the Black experience; and

Whereas, we recognize that many tools and weapons of oppression are designed to be self-inflicting and, unfortunately, were successfully distributed by the beneficiaries of Black self-destruction, from the time of

Introduced by

[Mayor Ted Wheeler](#)

Contact

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Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

February 8, 2023

Requested Start Time

9:45 am

Time Requested

20 minutes

the creation of animosity between the House and Field Negros to the drugs and guns epidemic that currently plagues our communities and neighborhoods and is exploited for profit; and

Whereas, the Black community still experiences the trauma from a healthcare system that was developed on the premise that the Negro is less human than the White man; that mental health concerns in the Black community were something to either be hidden or accepted; that emotional fatigue is communicated as weakness in relation to the idea of the strong Black man and Resilient Black woman; and that the pursuit of spiritual health has been characterized as cartoonish, outdated, and irrelevant; and

Whereas, we are a resilient people refusing to be victims and downtrodden; standing strong, uniting, and rejecting the systemic belief that we are less than and undeserving of humane treatment that includes being treated with respect and dignity as the minimum; and

Whereas, we rebel against extralegal violence, systemic racism, discrimination, suppression, oppression, and any treatment against the Black diaspora that neither honors us as a people nor empowers us to embrace our truth, build ourselves up, and have allies that reject the racist foundation that our nation was built upon and continues to perpetuate; and

Whereas, the attacks on the Black Family have been intended to harm the African-American community, in many instances they have created deeper, more determined roots from which a foundation of incredible strength, resilience, beauty, creativity, love, and unity has grown, supporting growth in the areas of education, science, medicine, arts, sports, finance, and politics; and

Whereas, there are few, if any, things more beautiful than the loving touch of a strong Black mother, the kind encouraging words of a strong Black father, the genuine respect and consideration of a strong understanding child; and African Americans are prepared to go to battle for what should be rightfully ours; this preparedness is a part of our narrative and has cultivated our courage, drive, and resilience in the face of adversity and inequality, all of which is the Identity of the Black family; and

Whereas, Black resilience, brilliance, innovation, and power can be seen woven throughout our existence and will continue to rewrite the narrative of the Black family and continue to break barriers, challenge the status quo, and create opportunities for our contributions to be highlighted and embraced; and

Whereas, we as a people are saying no more of the same! Our humanity matters; our struggle matters; our triumphs matter; our lives matter; and our Black experience matters. Today we celebrate our Blackness without reservation or hesitation, but with pride and honor; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved the Portland City Council of the City of Portland, Oregon, the “City of Roses,” do hereby proclaim February 2023

Black History Month

In Portland and encourage all residents to observe this month.

Documents and Exhibits

 [Proclamation](#) 95.85 KB

Agenda Items

113 Time Certain in [February 8, 2023 Council Agenda](#)

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Whereas, the Black voice refuses to be silenced. As a people we will continue to rise, evolve, and elevate to higher heights and levels with no regard for the literal and figurative hurdles that have been set before us for generations. Our truth and voices cannot be muted; our voices are powerful, influential, and encouraging, and our truth writes the real narrative of the Black experience; and

Whereas, we recognize that many tools and weapons of oppression are designed to be self-inflicting and, unfortunately, were successfully distributed by the beneficiaries of Black self-destruction, from the time of the creation of animosity between the House and Field Negroes to the drugs and guns epidemic that currently plagues our communities and neighborhoods and is exploited for profit; and

Whereas, the Black community still experiences the trauma from a healthcare system that was developed on the premise that the Negro is less human than the White man; that mental health concerns in the Black community were something to either be hidden or accepted; that emotional fatigue is communicated as weakness in relation to the idea of the strong Black man and Resilient Black woman; and that the pursuit of spiritual health has been characterized as cartoonish, outdated, and irrelevant; and

Whereas, we are a resilient people refusing to be victims and downtrodden; standing strong, uniting, and rejecting the systemic belief that we are less than and undeserving of humane treatment that includes being treated with respect and dignity as the minimum; and

Whereas, we rebel against extralegal violence, systemic racism, discrimination, suppression, oppression, and any treatment against the Black diaspora that neither honors us as a people nor empowers us to embrace our truth, build ourselves up, and have allies that reject the racist foundation that our nation was built upon and continues to perpetuate; and

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