

# Whereas

*Whereas,* the City of Portland takes pride in joining Americans throughout the country in recognizing February 2020 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 our shared history; and

*Whereas,* the theme for 2020, “African Americans and the Vote,” acknowledges the historical and modern-day challenges of people of African descent for the right to vote and have their voice heard; and

*Whereas,* many African Americans have long experienced disparities, exclusion, discrimination, and many barriers to being able to cast their vote. Dating back over 100 years African American have had to fight and campaign to have voting rights and be recognized as voters. This fight continues today for many African American people from many walks of life; and

*Whereas,* generations of African American individuals, families, and communities, have played a significant role in protesting the urgency for voting to be barrier free, inclusive, and non-discriminatory; and

*Whereas,* African American youth are now the inheritors of a flawed and unjust voting culture that has historically disproportionately oppressed the African American right to have their voice validated, heard, and counted; and

*Whereas,* African American youth are now leading movements to champion the shift in the stifling of the Black vote. Our young voters are motivated to drive out exclusion and discrimination and are not fearful of shedding light on the issue and identifying ways to not only combat, but to win the victory for Black voters; and

*Whereas,* as 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; and

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*Whereas*, to this day millions of African Americans across the country face coordinated efforts to suppress their right to vote, including racist voter ID laws, racial motivated redistricting, voter roll purges, inequitable resources for African American voting precincts, and countless other efforts to suppress their voice; and

*Whereas*, our diverse culture enriches and broadens the American experience of which Black heritage is an inseparable part as it weaves throughout our country's history, profoundly influencing every aspect of our lives; and

*Whereas*, we commend the many achievements, successes and contributions of African Americans in voters rights movements as there has been a significant rise of black elected and appointed officials locally and nationally; and

*Whereas*, inequality and injustice still linger in our cities, states, and country, and it is the responsibility of citizens to advance the American notion of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* the Portland City Council of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim February 2020

## *Black History Month*

In Portland and encourage all residents to observe this month.


Proclaim February 2020 to be Black History Month  
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Wheeler)

JAN 29 2020

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed JAN 21 2020

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By   
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Vacant		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		