

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING	)	RESOLUTION NO. 20-5078
FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2020	)	
BLACK HISTORY MONTH	)	Introduced by Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, Black scholar and son of former slaves, sought to raise awareness of African American contributions and organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which first initiated Black History Week in February 1926; and

WHEREAS, Black pioneers were among the earliest non-Native people to settle in Oregon, but it was not until World War II, that the Black population in Greater Portland increased due to the need for wartime labor. Black communities in Portland thrived momentarily during the postwar but would experience trauma and disruption from racist policies that would displace many Black community members over time; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Black History Month in Greater Portland and Oregon also means to acknowledge the legacy of racist and exclusionary practices and policies that caused generational harm and pushed many Black community members away from their community and the region; and

WHEREAS, despite the growing population of communities of color in Greater Portland, Black community members make up under 4 percent of the tri-county region; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all of us in government to call attention to the continued need to recognize and combat racism, lead with racial equity to dismantle racist policies and to build a community in which all are welcomed, respected and can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time where all community members are encouraged to reflect on past and current injustices faced by Black communities and seek actions that ensure freedom, justice and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, it is also a time to celebrate the many accomplishments and important contributions that Black Americans have made to Greater Portland and in Oregon including in politics, medicine, the environment, sports and the arts despite these obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Metro's workforce encompasses 6 percent of individuals who identify as Black American; and

WHEREAS, Metro is committed to continuing to partner with community-based organizations and community leaders to strengthen relationships, advance opportunities to engage and participate at the

decision-making table and receive guidance on achieving outcomes that foster the prosperity of Black community members in Greater Portland

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council proclaims February 1 through February 29, 2020 Black History Month in the Greater Portland region.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 6th day of February 2020.

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney