



A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

In Recognition of Black History Month

Whereas: Each year during *Black History Month*, the City of Smyrna celebrates the history and culture of African Americans, discovering stories of triumph, courage, and creativity, through lectures, discussions, exhibits, and educational events; and

Whereas: The origins of Black History Month date back to 1915 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the organization known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

Whereas: Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

Whereas: In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

Whereas: The contributions of African Americans to the fabric of this country should be recognized and celebrated. In observation of Black History Month, the Smyrna Public Library will host a series of activities, and the city will host the annual Black History Month Celebration Dinner; and

Whereas: The Fanny Williams Legacy Project, the continued restoration of Mt. Zion Cemetery, and the efforts to historically preserve areas in the Rose Garden community are examples of the City of Smyrna's continuing commitment to solidify the legacy of black history in the City of Smyrna; Now

Therefore: I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2024, to be *Black History Month*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 12th day of February in the year of Our Lord 2024.


Mayor

Derek Norton

