

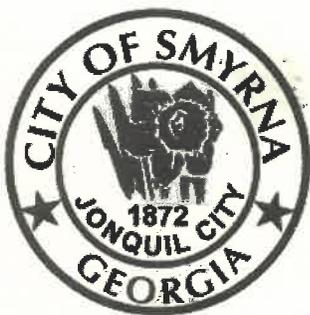


A PROCLAMATION

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:** Harriet Tubman, a contemporary of Douglass and Lincoln, was an abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad; Tubman, who perfectly exemplifies a role model of bravery and conviction for all Americans, will be celebrated at the Black History Month Dinner in Smyrna; and
- Whereas:** The Fanny Williams Legacy Project and the continued restoration of Mt. Zion Cemetery are two examples of the City of Smyrna's continuing commitment to solidify the legacy of black history in Smyrna's city history; Now
- Therefore:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2023, 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 6th day of February in the year of Our Lord 2023.

Derek Norton

Mayor

Derek Norton