



City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, during African American History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and initiated Negro History Week in 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, the second week of February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States and in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

**WHEREAS**, after the Civil War, many black Americans sought a better life, free from oppression and in search of new economic opportunities, and the liberty to create their own lives; and

**WHEREAS**, ASALH's 2018 theme, "African Americans in Times of War," commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath.

**WHEREAS**, the observance of African American History Month calls our Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

**WHEREAS**, this month serves as a reminder of the need for meaningful dialogue and shared commitment to collective action that uplifts and empowers, as well as of the strength, ingenuity, and perseverance required in the years to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Debbie Bertlin, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim February 2018 as

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Mercer Island and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

**APPROVED**, this 6th day of February 2018