

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1915, historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, due largely to the contributions of the Civil Rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, President Ford in 1976 officially recognized Black History Month, inspired by the ASALH's Negro History Week, dating back to 1926; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula recognizes Montana's own Black history is complex, spanning from the arrival of the first documented enslaved Africans in 1805; the publication of Montana's first Black newspaper, "The Colored Citizen," in 1894; to the election of Geraldine Travis, the first African American woman elected to the Montana Legislature in 1974; and the election of the state's first black Mayor, Wilmot Collins, in 2017; and

WHEREAS, other examples of Missoula's enduring Black history can be found on the 1400 block of Phillips Street, where St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Missoula's first Black church, was founded in 1910, and whose congregants built a community and pursued racial equity with neighbors, in the face of threats from the Ku Klux Klan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula is proud to join Missoula County and the state of Montana in "recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Black Americans who are part of the fabric of our Nation," here in Montana, throughout history and today.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, hereby recognize February 2022 as:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 28th day of February, in the year two thousand twenty-two.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen, Mayor