



Proclamation

WHEREAS, In 1926, Black historian, author, journalist and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Carter G. Woodson launched "Negro History Week" with the purpose of bringing attention to the need for acknowledging and accurately representing Black and African American history in schools; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Black History Month is "Black Migration" and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Month says the theme will have an emphasis on the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently new social realities; and

WHEREAS, Woodson once remarked, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history"; and

WHEREAS, Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University used the foundation laid by Woodson to found Black History Month, on February 1, 1970 and six years later the month was officially recognized by the federal government during the nation's bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to recognize and honor the many people, events, and significant contributions of Black and African Americans to our community, nation, and world despite living under the most disparate, unjust, and inequitable conditions; and

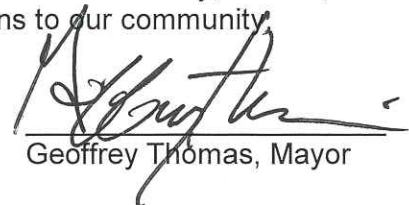
WHEREAS, Black and African Americans continue to experience inequity as a result of cultural and institutional biases and racism; and

WHEREAS, Black and African Americans live, work, and play in our community and make significant contributions to our economy, arts and culture, science, education, and more.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, do hereby recognize February 2019 as

National Black History Month

and encourage Monroe's residents to observe this month and honor the history, culture, and experiences and celebrate Black Americans and their contributions to our community.



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor