



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 "African Americans and the Vote." 2020 is a landmark year for voting rights. 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War.

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 societal 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 2020 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