



Proclamation *Recognizing National Black History Month*

WHEREAS, founded on work done beginning in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson to bring attention to the need for acknowledging and accurately representing Black and African American history, Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University used the foundation laid by Woodson to found Black History Month in 1970; and beginning in 1976, every president has declared the month of February as "Black History Month;" and

WHEREAS, Black and African Americans have made profoundly significant contributions that have enriched America and the lives of every American; and every American should acknowledge and express thankfulness for these; and Black and African Americans have made and continue to make America a better place and Americans a better people; and

WHEREAS, throughout the arc of history to present day, Black and African Americans have experienced and endured the inhumanity of injustices and inequities from societal and institutional biases, classism, and racism that are rooted in exploitive economic and political systems; and

WHEREAS, it is a moral imperative that each of us learns about, sheds light upon, and condemns the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black and African Americans continue to experience and endure, but moreover that each of us takes action to realize true reforms; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, every Monroe City Councilmember and I signed a "*Joint Statement of Mayor Geoffrey Thomas and the Monroe City Council Condemning and Standing against Racism, Discrimination, and Hatred;*" and

WHEREAS, to be silent in voice and complacent in action is to be complicit in this inhumanity and injustice; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize February 2022 as

National Black History Month

AND I CALL UPON EACH ONE OF US to listen to Black voices; to learn about experiences of Black and African Americans throughout history but also today; to shed light upon and condemn the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black and African Americans experience and endure; to take ownership for each of our roles in perpetuating these; to confront and end biases and racism; and to take action to realize true reforms in ourselves, our community, our culture, and our institutions to abolish injustice and inequities that Black and African Americans still experience and endure today.

AND WITH HUMILITY AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, TAKING ACTION FOR TRUE REFORMS, MAY WE JOIN HANDS AS A UNITED AND DIVERSE AMERICA, AND "*Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring, Ring with harmonies of Liberty*" for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas".

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor