



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 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, celebrate, 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 social, economic, and political systems; and

WHEREAS, I am thankful for and celebrate the historic and continuing actions of Black and African Americans who have fought against oppression and for equity, dignity, inclusion, and liberty for all; and I especially recognize the sacrifices made by many Black and African Americans who have been imprisoned, brutalized, and murdered because they acted against oppression and fought for freedom; and

WHEREAS, every one of us must recognize these sacrifices, must learn about and acknowledge the truths of our history and our present, and must work for truth, for equity, and for liberty for all; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, Monroe City Councilmembers 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, the City of Monroe is working to advance inclusive and equitable policies and practices that ensure that the City is a safe place for all, where every person feels at home and every person belongs.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize February 2023 as

National Black History Month

AND WITH HUMILITY AND GENUINE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, I call upon each of us to learn about the difficult truths of the history and present day lives of Black and African Americans; to celebrate the contributions of Black and African Americans to the United States of America; and to commit to take actions in our own lives to honor the memory and vision of Black and African Americans who were imprisoned, killed, and brutalized for their efforts to demand dignity and liberation for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor