

# *City of Albany*

## *Proclamation*

### **IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH February 2025**

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month in February celebrates the achievements and contributions that African Americans have made and the central role of African Americans in US history; and

**WHEREAS,** historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926, the particular week selected for the inclusion of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 officially designating February as National Black (Afro American) History Month; and

**WHEREAS,** President Ronald Regan declared in 1986, "the American experience and character can never be fully grasped until the knowledge of black history assumes its rightful place in our schools and our scholarship"; and

**WHEREAS,** during Black History Month, we remember and reflect on the struggles faced by African Americans to be treated equally throughout history; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month promotes, researches, preserves, interprets, and disseminates information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month also recognizes the important though often untold roles and achievements African Americans have played globally in the history, identity, culture, economy, literature, sports, and politics; and

**WHEREAS,** the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month reminds us that African Americans' struggles for equal opportunity and against discrimination began hundreds of years ago and have not yet ended; and

**WHEREAS**, the selected theme for 2025 “African Americans and Labor” focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, the Albany City Council does hereby recognize February 2025 as Black History Month in the City of Albany and acknowledges the contributions of African Americans in our community and recognizes that Albany’s journey to a fully inclusive City and society is not over but rather requires continued attention and support.

DATED: February 3, 2025

*City of Albany Proclamation No. 2025-01*

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ROBIN D. LÓPEZ, MAYOR