

PROCLAMATION

Black History Month

January 31, 2018

WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, noted African American scholar and historian, founded “Black History Week,” the second week in February, on February 12, 1926; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, as part of the nation’s bicentennial, “Black History Week” was expanded and established as “Black History Month” with the hope that through this special observance all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots and develop a mutual respect for the contributions of all racial groups in America; and

WHEREAS, The month of February is significant and recognized in African American history for the accomplishments and contributions of great African American pioneers and institutions, such as Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, George Washington Carver, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Mary McLeod Bethune, Harriet “Moses” Tubman, Barack Obama, the NAACP, and Tuskegee Institute; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have endured tremendous personal, social, economic and political injustices since the dawn of their enslavement; and

WHEREAS, These injustices notwithstanding, African Americans have made limitless contributions to society in medicine, science, art, religion, education, entertainment and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, We owe a great deal of gratitude to African Americans for their contributions, and for their efforts to help pioneer the way toward social and economic equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, “Black History Month” draws our collective attention to the facts and experiences of African Americans in this country from slavery, through the abolitionist movement; through the backlash of the oppressive laws of “Jim Crow” and the legalized institutional separation of the races; through the Harlem Renaissance; through the Civil Rights movement; and to the numerous and significant gains of freedom by agents of change like Sojourner Truth, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Madam CJ Walker, Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, Fannie Lou Hamer and John Lewis; and

WHEREAS, We are all indebted to these leaders as well as to the victims and the silent heroes for their immeasurable struggles and sacrifices and to all who have worked and are working to end discrimination, hatred and bigotry throughout society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA, that the County of Lancaster does hereby celebrate the month of February 2018 as -----
Black History Month-----

in Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners recognize and appreciate the many benefits of “Black History Month” to our citizenry and to our culture in general, and urge all Lancaster County residents to take the opportunity during this month to explore this rich history and to also make a personal commitment to help bring our nation closer to realizing racial equity.

Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman

Dennis P. Stuckey, Vice Chairman

Craig E. Lehman

*Board of Commissioners of
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*