

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BRIAN WORRELL, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA AND WEBBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2024

- WHEREAS,** Black people in the United States and the world over have made epic contributions to humanity despite centuries of systemic, structural, and personal oppression, marginalization, and disenfranchisement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Said mistreatment manifests in a variety of ways, both foreign and domestic, leading to systems of thought and power awash in neo-colonialism, anti-Blackness, and Eurocentricity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** To combat centuries of such criminality directed toward the masses of Black people, the esteemed educator Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1926 as a counter to the entrenched racism embedded in American pedagogy and within the society at large; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Woodson’s motivation for creating the week can be gleaned from a quote within his foundational text, “The Miseducation Of The American Negro, in which he states “When you control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his actions”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Hence, the idea was to give Black people a true sense of their collective worth and history to better forge ahead in the struggle for liberation and equality; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1969, Black educators and students at Kent State in Ohio, building upon Woodson’s legacy, first proposed celebrating Black History Month each February, and they honored the month at Kent State in 1970; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1976, then President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month at the Bicentennial celebration that took place that year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since that time, Black History Month has been recognized in more places

including in Great Britain in 1987, Germany in 1990, Canada in 1995, and most fittingly, by seven countries on the continent of Africa, the motherland of the Black diaspora, whose continent was looted of their people, labor, and resources by the economic and political elites of Europe and North America; *and*

WHEREAS, The month of February has within it many powerful historical landmarks and events that connote the salience and profundity of the Black experience, including the Greensboro sit-ins of 1960, which helped lead to the rise of SNCC, the births of the imperative thinkers, scholars, and activists Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois, the uprisings led by the enslaved Nat Turner and the “White ally” John Brown, as well as the tragic assassination of Malcolm X at the young age of 39; *and*

WHEREAS, Black History Month continues to play a relevant role of reminding all of us of the centrality of the Black experience within American life, the wonders of Black music, art, literature, dance, cuisine, family traditions and more, as well as the entrenched efforts by those in positions of power to marginalize them, brutalize them, and miseducate them : ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognize, honor and celebrate Black History Month, in February, 2024

Filed on 1/31/2024