



RESOLUTION NO. 20-0121-02  
A RESOLUTION DECLARING FEBRUARY  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN/BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN APEX

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an annual observance in Canada, the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded Black History Week in America in 1926 during the week of the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and former slave and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina was one of the first states to observe Black History Week in its schools; and

WHEREAS, during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 President Gerald Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout history”, extending the week into a month; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every American president has officially designated February as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper has declared February Black History Month in the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Apex, encompassing the community of Friendship, has a rich history of American Indian/Indigenous People-Tuscarora Tribe, and where during the age of Jim Crow, their Pow Wow brought together their white and black neighbors who agreed to reject Jim Crow and embrace peace and friendship; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit and strength of the Friendship, Whops, Low End, Frog Town, Matthews, Feltonville, and Scots Grove communities, Black History Month affords the whole community an opportunity to become more knowledgeable, in particular of the contributions of Black people to the physical and cultural progress and history of our country, state, and town; and

WHEREAS, such insight can strengthen the knowledge of all of our citizens regarding human rights and progress made toward breaking down barriers and building relationships, oneness, and strong sense of community; and

WHEREAS, as Americans, together we can achieve the ultimate goal of equity and inclusion while rejecting any form of inequality and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, valuing all people and respecting their experiences, we strive to understand and empathize with the struggles of our neighbors, and celebrate our differences resulting in a better functioning community – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s beloved community;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Apex, North Carolina, declares the month of February 2020 as BLACK HISTORY MONTH and urges all citizens to come together in our onward march toward dignity, justice, and equality for all.

This the 21st day of January 2020.

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Jacques K. Gilbert  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Donna B. Hosch, MMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk