



"The Peak of Good Living"

TOWN OF APEX NORTH CAROLINA *Proclamation*

Black History Month 2026

from the Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to honor the enduring legacy, resilience, and brilliance of Black Americans whose courage, creativity, leadership, and sacrifice have strengthened the fabric of our nation and enriched the story of humanity; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month traces its origins to 1926, when historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, which later expanded into a month-long observance to ensure that the achievements, struggles, and resilience of Black Americans are recognized and remembered;

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks "A Century of Black History Commemorations," an opportunity to reflect upon 100 years of intentional remembrance of Black American history, contributions, struggles, and triumphs—from the freedom movements of the past to the forward-marching endeavors of today; and,

WHEREAS, Black Americans have made significant contributions to Apex and the greater Triangle region in areas including education, public service, business, arts, science, athletics, faith, and civic leadership, often in the face of injustice and inequality; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Apex celebrates this legacy through a vibrant array of events and activities that educate, inspire, and bring our community together in shared appreciation of Black history and culture; and,

WHEREAS, these commemorations include the *Breach of Peace* performance by Mike Wiley, bringing to life powerful stories of the freedom Rides and early Civil Rights activism, *Black History Trivia*, fostering discovery, connection and community engagement; a *Learning Lunch* hosted by the Black Americans Heritage Commission featuring the Green Book Project exhibit, illuminating the history in safe spaces and enterprise for Black Americans, the United Strings of Color performance showcasing the rich heritage of Black contributions to classical music, and much, much more; and,

WHEREAS, the spirit of Black History Month aligns with the Town of Apex's commitment to inclusiveness, learning, celebration, and the shared joy of cultural discovery across generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2026 as Black History Month in the Town of Apex and urge all residents to use this time for all to reflect, celebrate, and engage in the stories, accomplishments, and aspirations of the Black community, both here in Apex, and beyond; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the theme "A Century of Black History Commemorations" will guide our collective observance with intention, gratitude, and forward-looking hope, encouraging one resident at a time to participate in activities and dialogue that elevates their appreciation, understanding, and unity.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 10th day of February, 2026.

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor