



**PROCLAMATION
OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2021 AS**

“Black History Month”

WHEREAS, without the stories of African Americans, the story of Texas and all of America is incomplete; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month evolved from Negro History Week, initially conceived by scholar Carter G. Woodson in 1926 in order to expand national consciousness regarding the struggles, achievements, and heritage of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mostafa Azemmouri, also known as Estevanico, was a black Moroccan slave who used his language and healing skills to help guide shipwrecked Spaniards through Native American communities to explore present-day Texas, and is recognized as the first person of African descent to enter the American Southwest; and

WHEREAS, those recognized as the original founders of Dripping Springs also brought with them twelve enslaved human beings whose names we may never know, yet whose skills and labor were critical to the original development of Dripping Springs; and

WHEREAS, our city is located 15-20 miles from the Peyton Colony and Antioch Colony historical markers, both of which commemorate communities founded by freed slaves of this region between 1865 and 1871; and

WHEREAS, despite enduring racism, segregation, and oppression, many African American Texans have made valuable cultural and historical contributions: Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman and also the first Native American to hold a pilot’s license, and stood up to segregation. Wallace Jefferson made history in 2004 as both the first African American Justice and Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Jefferson’s own family history is a testament to the tenacity of the individual human spirit; he is the descendant of a slave, who was owned by a Waco, Texas judge before the Civil War. That slave, Shedrick Willis, served his community as a two-term member of the Waco City Council after the War. In 1966, Barbara Jordan became the first African American state senator in Texas in more than 75 years and was a leader during the civil rights movement. Breaking barriers even in death, she became the first African American to be buried among the governors, senators, and congressmen in the Texas State Cemetery in 1996; and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme, Celebrating Black History Month in Hays County, offers a reminder that this county has a rich history of African Americans who have and will continue to contribute to the culture, economics, history, and lifestyle of the cities in Hays County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The month of February 2021 shall be celebrated as “Black History Month” in the City of Dripping Springs; and
2. That the City Council urges our citizens to draw inspiration from the past and, more importantly, commit ourselves to enriching the quality of life for all who live and work in Dripping Springs.

Bill Foulds, Jr., Mayor