



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month evolved from “Negro History Week”, which was created by Carter G. Woodson in 1926, during the second week of February based on the birthdays of abolitionist Fredrick Douglas and President Abraham Lincoln. It expanded to include the entire month beginning in 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Collins acknowledges the nation’s and our community’s history of injustices against the Black community and the continued anti-Blackness experienced by Black community members; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Collins recognizes the resilience of the original Black families that settled in Fort Collins and worked to support other Black individuals navigating moving into this white-majority city. Black residents are documented living in Fort Collins as early as 1880. By the early 1900s, several Black families had established a community near the intersection of Maple and Meldrum Streets; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Collins recognizes the Black-led student organizations that have existed since the 1960s through the present day at Colorado State University. These organizations paved the way in fighting discrimination and racism in Fort Collins and actively create a strong sense of belonging for Black African American students. These organizations include the Cultural Enrichment Center that creates spaces for Black and Bi-racial youth and families to connect and thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, in acknowledging this month, we honor the courage, perseverance, and resilience of Black Americans, of all ages, who have made and continue to make powerful contributions in all aspects of sports, music, literature, politics, arts and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all community members to take pride in the celebration of Black History Month by learning about the culture and legacy of Black Americans that is an indelible part of American history and enhances diversity in Fort Collins.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Emily Francis, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim February 2026, as

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of February, 2026.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk