

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE
MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2023, AS BLACK HISTORY
MONTH IN THE CITY OF NORMAN.

- § 1. WHEREAS, since its origin in 1926 by the “Father of Black History”, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, in his pursuit to raise awareness of African Americans’ contributions to civilization, Black History Week began and evolved into Black History Month; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, 2023’s national theme, Black Resistance “A Journey to Equality” highlights institutions’ and affiliations’ efforts to lobby, litigate, legislate, protest, and has achieved success in areas of equality, and
- § 3. WHEREAS, we acknowledge the legacy of Black resistance movements throughout the United States and in Norman, including movements to rename DeBarr Hall and DeBarr Avenue, to integrate the University of Oklahoma in the famous *Sipuel vs. Board of Regents* U.S. Supreme Court legal case of 1948 which set legal precedent for the more famous 1954 *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* case, striking down the “separate by equal” legal doctrine and civil protests against police brutality and incidents of racial discrimination on the OU campus and the larger Norman community; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, in 2023, Norman, Oklahoma, and the United States will observe the 100th birthday celebration of the late Clara Luper, one of the first African-American graduates of the University of Oklahoma professional colleges, and who led famous sit-in movements and other acts of civil resistance; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, the Alliance of Black Employees, a City of Norman Employee Resource Group, established in 2021, also provides support and representation to the Black community in Norman, while providing non-Black communities an opportunity to learn the Black experience to better understand diverse perspectives; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the Norman Human Rights Commission continues to work to dispel prejudice and discrimination, and to advance fairness, mutual understanding, and appreciation for the worth of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 7. Do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2023, as Black History Month in the City of Norman and invite all citizens to join me in celebrating the diversity and character of our community.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of February, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

