Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Tumwater proudly embraces the cultural diversity of our community and honors organizations, families, and individuals of African American descent in appreciation of their invaluable contributions that continue to enrich our City, and unite and sustain us as a community; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater was settled by George Bush, a prominent member of the 1845 settlement party, and his family. A frontiersman and successful farmer, he was the first Black settler to receive a land grant in Washington territory; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, noted Black scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and initiated Negro History Week in 1926 to encourage the study of African American history; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month was formally adopted in 1976 to honor and affirm the importance of Black People in American History, advance the cause of civil rights, and to strengthen families, communities, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, observing Black History Month provides opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of African American history and acknowledge the centuries of struggles for equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to our continued journey towards a better society, to understanding ourselves, and growing stronger as a community; and

WHEREAS, this year's Black History Month theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations" was selected by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The theme marks the 100th anniversary of the first Black History Week, established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926, and honors a century of achievements, resilience, and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim the month of

February 2026
Black History Month

and, I call upon the people of the City of Tumwater to celebrate the contributions of African Americans that are central to society, including civic, economic, professional, medical, scientific, military, and artistic excellence;

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 17th day of February in the year two thousand twenty-six.

Leatta L Dahlhoff

Leatta Dahlhoff
Mayor