

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, African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences, the Study of African American Life and History has selected “African Americans and the Arts” as the theme for Black History Month 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Debbie Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim the month of

February 2024
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 6th day of February in the year two thousand twenty-four.





Debbie Sullivan
Mayor