

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, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted Black scholar and 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. In 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted 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. Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme; and

WHEREAS, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History identify the 2023 Black History Month theme, "Black Resistance," and explores how "African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings," since the nation's earliest days; 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, the contributions of African Americans are central to society, including civic, economic, professional, medical, scientific, military, and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Tumwater was settled by George Bush and his family. Bush was a prominent member of the 1845 settlement party, a frontiersman and successful farmer, who helped establish present-day Tumwater and was the first Black settler to receive a land grant in Washington territory.

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

February 2023
Black History Month

and, because of the disparities that continue to plague our society, I call upon the people of the City of Tumwater to continue to eliminate the barriers of equality, recognize and raise their voices to bring about lasting systemic and societal change against racism.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, and recognized on this 21st day of February in the year, two thousand twenty-three.




Debbie Sullivan
Mayor