

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF PASTOR VINICENT HOLLAND AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Black History Week was originally initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a native of Buckingham County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, since the Bicentennial year of 1976, Americans of all walks of life have come together during the month of February to honor the accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have contributed greatly to the heritage, progress, and advancement of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fauquier County, and the Town of Warrenton; and

WHEREAS, the history and culture of African Americans make up an important part of the history and culture of the United States, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Town of Warrenton; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Pastor Vinicent Holland moved to Fauquier County entrenching himself in this community with his family, being a Substitute Teacher in the County School system and becoming Ordained as a Minister in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Pastor "Vini" is currently serving as Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Woodville, Virginia and as an Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia where he leads what has become a weekly Community Bible Study; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Holland actively participates on numerous boards in the Fauquier County and Warrenton area as a member of the Warrenton Police & Pastor Coalition, the Rappahannock Clergy Association, the Citizens Action Team for 21st Century Policing, and of Common Threads, a joint ministry with St. James Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Holland also serves as a Trustee with Covenant Christian Academy, Warrenton, Virginia and as Co-Moderator of the Council Addressing Local Issues Preventing Equality (and) Reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Holland served as a community stakeholder with the National Association of Community Mediation and Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center and works with numerous local, state, and national Civil Rights organizations, in addition, he is asked to sit on numerous panels and enjoys being engaged in endeavors that create unity and grow the Beloved Community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Holland believes that Spiritual Health and Mental Health go hand-in-hand, his desire is to contribute to the improvement of mental health for all, diminishing the stigma associated with mental health and considers himself blessed to be able to serve on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of Fauquier County (MHAFC); and

WHEREAS, Pastor Vinicent Holland is an invaluable resource to the Warrenton community focusing his impact on the spiritual issues that divide us based on stereotypes, and not by the moral arc of our character; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Warrenton Town Council hereby proclaims the month of February 2024 as "Black History Month" in the Town of Warrenton; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Mayor of the Town of Warrenton recognizes the work of Pastor Vinicent Holland in this community and commends his efforts to remind us that when we look at the love for each other, that we can share, we can come together to fix and resolve our issues.

(seal)

H. E. Carter Nevill
Mayor
Town of Warrenton