

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2023
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 the late 1980's Karen Hughes White and Karen King Lavore began to share their individual genealogies, finding common threads and connections; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County was established by Karen Hughes White and Karen King Lavore in 1992 to further our community's appreciation and understanding of Fauquier County and Warrenton African American history, genealogy and culture; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association is home to a 4,269 square foot museum located in The Plains, VA housing 1,634 artifacts detailing the rich history of Fauquier County's Black residents and those of the historic Black communities in Warrenton, such as Oliver City, Madisontown, Haiti Street, and the historic landmarks of Eva Walker Park and the Rosenwald Schools; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association regularly conducts programs, special events, lectures exhibits and open houses celebrating the collective and individual lives and artistry of our community's past and current residents, such as: The AAHA Virtual Genealogy and Local History Series; Historic African Churches; Annual Community Celebrations; Veterans and Military Day; Art Collections and Music Day; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association's library and archives and its rich inventory of books, transcripts, monographs, photographs, letters and other memorabilia are open to the public for research; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association recently opened its new Digital Map Center and webpage allowing all to explore our historic African American communities through story maps that "tell the history of the lives of those often overlooked and omitted Americans from history's pages"; and

WHEREAS, The Afro-American Historical Association is an invaluable resource to the Warrenton community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Warrenton Town Council hereby proclaims the month of February 2023 as "Black History Month" in the Town of Warrenton; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED The Warrenton Town Councils recognizes the Afro-American Historical Association and the contributions that it has made to the Town, its progress, and its prosperity.

(seal)

H. E. Carter Nevill
Mayor
Town of Warrenton