



Official Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on and recognize the collective struggle for full citizenship, equity, inclusion, and justice that Black Americans have endured and continue to endure to this day; and

WHEREAS, the observation began in 1926 to have a week to spotlight overlooked African-American contributions. The month of February was chosen for its ties to Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays. It was later designated a month-long observance in the United States by President Gerald Ford in 1976, in recognition of a national celebration of Black culture, history, and achievements; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 U.S. Census estimates that slightly over 4.2% of Whitewater's population are Black or African American residents; and

WHEREAS, 3% of the students in the Whitewater Unified School District identify as Black; and

WHEREAS, 5.6% of the students at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Whitewater, Wisconsin, identify as African American/Black; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater joins the rest of the nation in recognizing the unique and vital role in our economy, workforce, education, and faith communities these Black residents contribute.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WHITEWATER CITY COUNCIL proclaims the month of February 2026 as National Black History Month in the City of Whitewater and encourages residents to observe this month.

Presented this ____ day of February, 2026.

WHITEWATER CITY COUNCIL

John Weidl, City Council President