

Proclaiming African American History Month in the County of Los Angeles

Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is celebrated annually in February, recognizing the profound contributions and central role African Americans have played in shaping the United States. African Americans have made remarkable contributions across social, economic, political, cultural, and other fields, with figures such as Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and Malcolm X advancing justice, equality, and civil rights for all minorities.

Black History Month traces its roots to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History Month, who first proclaimed Negro History Week in 1926 to acknowledge the contributions of Black Americans and correct the exclusion of Black history from the American education system. The civil rights movement of the 1960s further highlighted the importance of African American culture and history in the United States, expanding the awareness and recognition of these vital contributions.

2025 marks the 99th annual celebration of Black History Month, with emphasis on the significant labor contributions of African Americans, who have shaped industries, the economy, and labor movements in the face of systemic racism, discrimination, and exploitation. Despite the many barriers faced, African Americans have fought for fair wages, better working conditions, and overall civil rights in the labor movement, with key figures such as A. Philip Randolph leading the charge to end segregation and discrimination in the armed forces and beyond.

This month serves not only to reflect on past achievements but also to inspire and empower future generations to continue the ongoing struggle for equity, representation, and justice for Black individuals, addressing both the historical and present-day

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challenges faced by the community. We celebrate Black History Month in honor of the resilience and achievements of African Americans and recommit ourselves to supporting continued progress to foster a future where equity and justice exists for all communities.

This year, the Second District celebrates individuals and organizations whose efforts help their communities' overcome obstacles in the fight for justice and equity and acknowledge the contributions of William A. Young as our Community Engagement Award Honoree, Marie and Greg Rachal as our Trailblazer Award Honorees, Glen and Mary Porter as our Public Service Award Honorees, Nappily Naturals as our Small Business Award Honoree, Kennedy Jackson and Ekco Murkwood for our Young Leader Award Honorees.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of February as Black History Month in Los Angeles County (County) and encourage all residents to celebrate the history, legacy, and contributions made by African Americans, and to continue the pursuit of equality and justice for all.
2. Encourage all residents of the County to be further educated on African American history by accessing programs available through the County's Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Library and Department of Public Social Services as each department hosts events to advance the knowledge of the community.

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