

MOTION: Baldwin

**January 11, 2024
Regular Meeting
HRC RES 24 - 01**

SECOND: Johnston

RE: A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE, AFFIRM AND RECOGNIZE BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024.

ACTION:

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the vast contributions of African Americans to our Nation's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson a Virginian, and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme for Black History Month, **African American art** is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount.

WHEREAS, African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

WHEREAS, the suffering of those in bondage gave birth to the spirituals, the nation's first contribution to music. Blues musicians such as Robert Johnson, McKinley 'Muddy Waters' Morganfield and Riley "BB" B. King created and nurtured a style of music that became the bedrock for gospel, soul, and other still popular (and evolving) forms of music

WHEREAS, Black contributions to literature include works by poets like Phillis Wheatley, essays, autobiographies, and novels by writers such as David Walker and Maria Stewart. Black aesthetics have also been manifested through sculptors like Edmonia Lewis and painters like Henry O. Tanner.

WHEREAS, celebrating the entire history of African Americans and the arts, puts into the national spotlight the richness of the past and present with an eye towards what the rest of the twenty-first century will bring.

WHEREAS, African Americans have been a significant piece of the fabric of Prince William County to include the arts since the 1600's, both enslaved and free

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Human Rights Commission recognizes through this resolution the Month of February 2024 as Black History Month in Prince William County and encourage all residents to honor and celebrate the contributions of African Americans and the arts in our County.

Votes:

Ayes: Porter, BruMar, Ginoba, Johnston, Young, Baldwin, Pratter, Muz

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent from the meeting: Laos

ATTEST: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and several smaller loops and strokes extending to the right.

Executive Director