

City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month allows for awareness and education about African-American culture and the many contributions and sacrifices of African-American leaders to the progression of our nation and local communities; and; and

WHEREAS, this knowledge can strengthen and enlighten communities on the issues, both past and present, that impact lives around us, including, but not limited to: human rights, equality, diversity, racial discrimination and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month brings citizens of different races and creeds together for the common cause of celebrating the steps taken towards a civil society, unified, without racism, discrimination, sexism or barriers to quality of life and human rights; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrates and commemorates the accomplishments of Civil Rights Leaders, Orators, Inventors, Educators, and entrepreneurs dedicated to the principles of justice, equality, equal opportunity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, The Black History timeline has traditionally limited our understanding of African American history as limited to: slavery, cotton fields, hangings, lynchings, rape, beatings; freedom fighters, The Underground Railroad, safe houses, abolition, black codes; restricting rights but ensuring slave labor with continued socioeconomic struggle and disenfranchisement ; and

WHEREAS, legal segregation and Jim Crow laws segregated communities by race until these doctrines were struck down by Brown vs. Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month focuses on the history of empowering an oppressed people through the leadership, arts, and vision of those such as: Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Marcus Garvey, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Shirley Chisholm, Josephine Baker, and Mae Jemison; and

WHEREAS, Black History leaders joined forces to establish civil rights groups such as: the Niagara Movement, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and other organizations to ensure equal opportunity, fair treatment and representation on various platforms; and

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WHEREAS, The observance of Black History Month asks us to reflect on the trauma, struggles for freedom and equality, and progress as our society works towards a more loving, unified and diverse and inclusive city, state, and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim February 2020 as

*Black History Month*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in the endeavor for a more unified community; celebrating the achievements of our Black Community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2020.

Lauren Poe  
Mayor

