



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Proclamation Recognizing February as Black History Month in the City of Ukiah.

DEPARTMENT: City Manager /
Admin

PREPARED BY: Maria Ceja, Administrative Analyst

PRESENTER: Douglas F. Crane, City Council, Mayor

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proclamation

Summary: The Ukiah City Council will issue a proclamation recognizing February 2025 as Black History Month in the City of Ukiah. This proclamation acknowledges the central role of African, Caribbean, and Black Americans in shaping our nation's history, culture, and society. Black History Month provides an opportunity to honor the resilience, achievements, and contributions of these communities while inviting the Ukiah community to participate in celebrating this important observance.

Background: Black History Month traces its origins to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a prominent historian and scholar, launched Negro History Week. This effort was expanded to the full month of February in 1976 and has since been nationally recognized by every American president.

Discussion: In issuing this Black History Month proclamation (Attachment 1), the City of Ukiah underscores its commitment to honoring the diverse histories and cultures that enrich our community. The Black History Month 2025 theme, "**African Americans and Labor**," highlights the vital contributions of African Americans to the labor movement and economic progress throughout history. The City also encourages residents to participate in local and national efforts to celebrate Black History Month, recognizing the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in fostering a stronger community.

Recommended Action: Issue a Proclamation of the Ukiah City Council recognizing February as Black History Month.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: N/A

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

REVENUE: N/A **GRANT:** N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: Diversity and Equity Committee

STRATEGIC PLAN (SP): SP 5C - Create, sustain, and advance a diverse and inclusive workplace and workforce that reflects, values, and celebrates the diverse community we serve.

CLIMATE INITIATIVES (CI): N/A

GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS (GP): N/A

Approved: 
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager



February 2025 as “Black History Month” in the City of Ukiah

Whereas, *Black History Month* is observed in February of each year and is a national annual celebration and recognition of achievements by African Americans; and

Whereas, *Black History Month* seeks to recognize the central role that African Americans have played in our nation’s history and to honor the many achievements and contributions African Americans have made and continue to make in our society; and

Whereas, *Black History Month* can be traced back to 1926. Designed to coincide with the celebratory birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week in February of 1926 to encourage the teaching of Black history across communities and public schools. Woodson, the son of former slaves who became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University, recognized the importance of establishing an initiative that could be celebrated annually and on a national scale. Woodson, a writer and scholar of the “Father of *Black History Month*,” initiated the celebration. The celebration has expanded to include the entire month of February; and

Whereas, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and has endorsed a specific theme; and

Whereas, the *Black History Month* 2025 theme, ‘*African Americans and Labor*’, honors the significant contributions of African Americans to the labor movement and recognizes their resilience and achievements. This theme highlights figures such as A. Philip Randolph, who organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first predominantly African American labor union; and Claudette Colvin, whose courageous actions as a young seamstress inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It also celebrates the ingenuity of inventors like Granville T. Woods, whose innovations in railway technology revolutionized transportation; and Madam C.J. Walker, an entrepreneur who built a thriving beauty empire while providing employment opportunities for thousands of African Americans; and

Whereas, by reflecting on this theme, we honor the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in labor history and the ongoing fight for equity and justice in workplaces across the country; and

Whereas, *Black History Month* celebrates the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans, including our local heroes; and

Whereas, we welcome the community to participate in the celebration and recognition of *Black History Month*. Additional information and resources are available on platforms such as the Mendo Black Lives Matter Facebook page.

Therefore be it resolved, that the City Council of the City of Ukiah, hereby proclaims February 2025, as

Black History Month in the City of Ukiah

*Signed and sealed, this 5th day of February in the year
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.*

Douglas F. Crane, Mayor