

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2023/68

DECLARING FEBRUARY 2023 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Whereas, in 1915 Carter G. Woodson began promoting the centrality of Black history and popularizing its study and dissemination, and in 1926 declared the second week of February as “Negro History Week,” sponsored by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History;

Whereas, Woodson chose February, the birth month of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, to highlight that history is made by people not persons, that historical advancement is a collective achievement, not an individual triumph;

Whereas, the celebration that Woodson pioneered configured Black history as American history and endeavored to incorporate its instruction into educational curriculum as well as the public consciousness;

Whereas, in the early 1940s, African Americans in West Virginia began to celebrate February as Black History Month, but it was not until 1976 that it was officially recognized as such by sitting U.S. President Gerald Ford;

Whereas, since then, Black History Month is guided by a yearly theme, which for 2023 is “Black Resistance”;

Whereas, African Americans have been both democracy’s heroes and victims and have consistently championed the ideals of liberation, justice, and equality while exposing our nation’s legacies of enslavement, injustice, and oppression;

Whereas, Contra Costa County has benefited and continues to benefit from the contributions of its African American residents in myriad industries and areas, and have strengthened our region and uplifted our community;

Whereas, we acknowledge that African Americans have experienced a disproportionate degree of harm and discrimination as a result of systemic, structural, and institutional racism, and we commit to addressing the outcomes and root causes of these forces through meaningful dialogue, action, and accountability; and

Whereas, Black History encompasses centuries of struggle, resistance, accomplishments, and contributions, which we commemorate and celebrate through this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this resolution to recognize February 2023 as Black History Month and uplift equity and justice in our county.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor

KEN CARLSON

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 28, 2023

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: _____, Deputy