

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Black History Month is a celebration of the contributions and achievements of African Americans and descendants of slaves first established in 1976 by Carter G. Woodson, a scholar who fervently believed that Black people should be proud of their heritage and all Americans should understand the largely overlooked achievements of African Americans; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle acknowledges the long history of institutional racism towards Black people and other communities of color and recognizing the unique challenges faced by African immigrant and refugee communities, has committed itself to undoing racism and promoting racial equity and social justice through the Race and Social Justice Initiative; and continues to identify and analyze manifestations of racism and develop shared culture and leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the Seattle Human Rights Commission was established in 1963 and Seattle City Council passed a Fair Housing Ordinance in 1968; and
- WHEREAS, across generations, local Black leaders have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to help shape our city for the better and lead industries and movements for change, serve our communities at every level, and advance every field – including arts and sciences, business and law, health and education, and many more; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is indebted to the Black leaders that have contributed to our community - Councilmember Sam Smith was the first African American to serve on the Council from 1968-1991; Walter Huntley was the first African American Superintendent of Department of Parks and Recreation from 1977-1988; Claude Harris was the first African American Fire Chief and first Black firefighter from 1985-1997; Norman B. Rice was Seattle’s first African American mayor from 1990-1997; Roberta Palm Bradley was the first woman of color to become Superintendent of Seattle City Light from 1992-1994; Sherry Harris was the first African American lesbian woman elected to the City Council in 1992-1995; and
- WHEREAS, today, we celebrate a diverse slate of elected leaders to represent our residents and neighbors – including Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Councilmember Rob Saka and Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth of proud African heritage; and
- WHEREAS, 2024’s Black History Month’s theme is “African Americans and the Arts” and is celebrated across the United States every February through recognition of the achievements of African Americans and all people of the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, this month is an opportunity to celebrate African American artists such as Jacob Lawrence, James Washington, Jr., and Ernestine Anderson, and through the many activities at the Northwest African American Museum, the historic Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, Historic Central Area Arts and Cultural District; Onyx Fine Arts Collective; Rainier Arts Center, Arté Noir, Wa Na Wari, and so many other great artists and activities;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle celebrates Black History Month – reminding all residents and neighbors that Black history is Seattle history, Black culture is Seattle culture, and Black stories are an essential component of the story of our city; and

WHEREAS, under our One Seattle initiative to build a thriving, innovative, and equitable city we are all proud to call home, the City of Seattle celebrates Black History Month by recommitting to fight for the equity, opportunity, dignity, and voting rights to which every Seattleite is due.

THEREFORE, THE MAYOR OF SEATTLE AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM
FEBRUARY 2024 TO BE

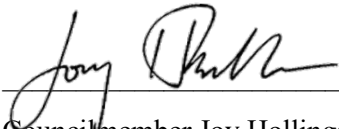
Black History Month in Seattle



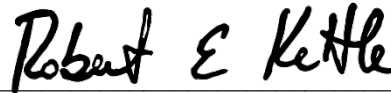
Mayor Bruce A. Harrell



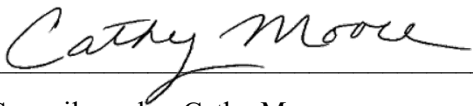
City Council President Sara Nelson



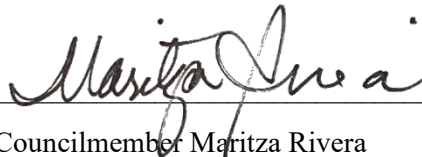
Councilmember Joy Hollingsworth



Councilmember Robert Kettle



Councilmember Cathy Moore



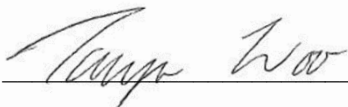
Councilmember Maritza Rivera



Councilmember Rob Saka



Councilmember Dan Strauss



Councilmember Tanya Woo

