

The City of Holland, Michigan



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history and culture; and,

WHEREAS, This event grew out of "Negro History Week," created by noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans; and,

WHEREAS, Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month; and,

WHEREAS, With the 2021 national theme for the observance, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity;" we recognize that the Black family has been stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to today and that the Black family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present; and,

WHEREAS, The events of this past year, including the Black Lives Matter and other protests for racial equality across our city, state, and country call our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and,

WHEREAS, During the Great Migration (1916-1970), America saw 6 million African Americans leave rural, southern United States and head north, many of them settling in Detroit and other Michigan cities, including Holland; they brought with them the desire for economic opportunities, freedom from oppression and harassment, and freedom to create their own lives; these men, women, and children played an important role in settling the State of Michigan, as well as the rest of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Holland continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all residents are respected and recognized for their past, present, and future contributions to our community, the state, the country, and the world.

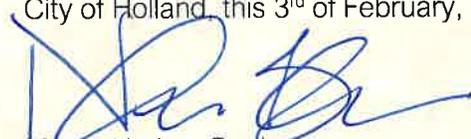
NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of African Americans – past and present – in our community I, Nathan Bocks, Mayor of the City of Holland, Michigan, and members of the Holland City Council, proclaim the month of

February 2021 as Black History Month in the City of Holland

and urge all residents to participate in events that celebrate our black brothers and sisters' heritage and culture. As a City, we continue our efforts to create a just, peaceful, and prosperous community for all peoples.



Given under my hand and the seal of the
City of Holland, this 3rd of February, 2021


Mayor Nathan Bocks