

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions of African Americans who have shaped the history of our city, our state and our nation; we are reminded of our responsibility to respect and preserve this lasting heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, countless African American entrepreneurs, activists, military and political leaders, academicians, journalists, medical professionals, scientists, inventors, filmmakers, writers, artists, and countless others have helped build our city and our nation and are commemorated by museums, historical sites, festivals, special lectures, and presentations across our city; and

WHEREAS, one of these events in the City of Tacoma is the Washington State History Museum's "Men of Change" Exhibit and its recognition of the Ford Men of Courage Tacoma Barbershop Challenge Finalists: Goodfellas, owned by Mr. Eric Upchurch, and Legends, owned by Mr. Hasani Frederick; these barbershops provide guidance, love, support, and mentorship to African American men throughout our city; and

WHEREAS, the United States has been home to numerous African Americans who have changed the course of history, such as freedom fighter Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; political organizer Fannie Lou Hamer; journalist and activist Ida B. Wells; medical innovator Dr. Charles Drew; Tacoma NAACP co-founder Nettie Asberry; extraordinary sports legend, entrepreneur, and social activist Kobe Bryant; and countless others; and

WHEREAS, black history is American history and this month is a time to affirm and honor the valuable contributions that African Americans have made to our history, society, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma has a rich and robust history of black leadership including the work of the Black Collective, the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance, the local chapter of the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, and the newly-formed Black Parents Alliance, as well as an abundance of entrepreneurs, judges, non-profit administrators, attorneys, artists, and activists, contributing to the racial and economic justice, success and growth of all sectors; and

WHEREAS, entrepreneur Mr. Jason Kinlow has contributed to the economic well-being of our city by paving a way for grooming professionals through the J. Kinlow School of Barbering and Cosmetology while providing free grooming services to people experiencing homelessness, including young adults, as well as offering services at senior citizen facilities; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of Black History Month affords all Americans the opportunity to reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to continue to improve society so we can live up to the ideals of freedom, equity, justice, economic opportunity, and access for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTORIA WOODARDS, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim February 2020 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Tacoma, and encourage our residents to reflect on the accomplishments and contributions African Americans have made to our city, our nation, and the world.

WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND
AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE
CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,
This 11th Day of February 2020.


VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor

