

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS** each year, since 1986, the United States observes Black History Month, a month-long celebration every February to acknowledge the struggles and accomplishments of Black and African Americans for racial justice that stirred the very conscience of our nation, and

**WHEREAS** Black Americans for generations have courageously led the pursuit of justice and equality, from Harriet Tubman to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. to bell hooks and beyond; and

**WHEREAS** Black Americans have made significant contributions to our nation's economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements, despite historical and current injustices, and

**WHEREAS** in Milwaukie, we celebrate the contributions of Black Americans who have been active in our community, including entrepreneurial boxing promoter George Moore, Seyona Belai of Zana Construction, and Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen proprietors Hurtis and Dorothy Hadley, among others; and

**WHEREAS** our nation struggles to overcome the systemic racism that results in persistent inequality, the importance of a systemic change and greater national dialogue to promote understanding, break down barriers, build community is essential; and

**WHEREAS** as individuals, we must learn more about the history of Black Americans generally, and in Oregon in particular, and work to build a Milwaukie where every person has equitable access to educational and employment opportunities, and housing.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Batey, Mayor of the City of Milwaukie, a municipal corporation in the County of Clackamas, in the State of Oregon, and with the full support and sponsorship of the City Council do hereby proclaim **February 2024** to be **CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE MONTH** in Milwaukie and recommend its observance with appropriate programs and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, and with the consent of the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, I have hereunto set my hand on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of **February 2024**.

  
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Lisa M. Batey, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Scott S. Stauffer, City Recorder

