PROCLAMATION

West Linn, Oregon

WHEREAS, the 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," focuses on the profound impact of work in all its forms on the collective experiences of Black people; and

WHEREAS, work has been central to Black history and culture, from the agricultural labor of enslaved Africans to the entrepreneurial spirit in Black communities; and

WHEREAS, Black labor has been instrumental in shaping American history, from the Civil War era to the Industrial Revolution and beyond; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played crucial roles in organized labor, fighting for both economic and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the year 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids, the first Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor, and an embodiment of founder and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph's belief that segregation and racism were linked to the unfair distribution of wealth and power; and

WHEREAS, understanding Black labor and its impact is integral to comprehending the histories, lives, and cultures of Black people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LINN, that February 2025 is

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating the theme "African Americans and Labor" and recognizing the transformational impact of Black people's work throughout the United States, Africa, and the Diaspora. City Council encourages all citizens to participate in Black History Month activities and to reflect on the profound contributions of African Americans to our nation's labor history and economic development.

DATED THIS DAY OF FEBRUARY 3, 2025

RORY BIALOSTOSKY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KATHY MOLLUSKY, CITY RECORDER