

PROCLAMATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2019

WHEREAS, the story of Black History Month began in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, when Harvard-historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History as an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we mark the brave efforts of the countless Americans throughout our nation's history who have demanded justice, declared an end to oppression and segregation, and fought to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to build a brighter future for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month will be commemorated, in Oak Park, throughout the month of February with community wide events including a Black History Month Celebration and Health Fair, "Equality in Healthcare", at West Suburban Medical Center on February 20th, and "Harambee" Black History performance at Longfellow Elementary School on February 22nd, and

WHEREAS, Oak Park parent, Donna Callender, started "Harambee", Shahili for "let's pull together", with Longfellow School's "Parents of African American Children" (PAAC) thirteen years ago, so that their sons and daughters could connect to their heritage and take pride in expressing it; and

WHEREAS, the program has continued to grow to include students of all cultures and ages in the Village of Oak Park to celebrate Black Excellence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anan Abu-Taleb, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim February 2019 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in the Village of Oak Park, and urge all citizens to be cognizant of and participate in the events arranged for this time.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this 11th day of February 2019.

Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

ATTEST:

Vicki Scaman
Village Clerk