

# PROCLAMATION

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2020

**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, known as the “Father of Black History”, 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 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) continues to organize with the mission to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community; and

**WHEREAS**, the ASALH theme for recognizing Black History Month reflects upon year 2020 as the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War, and the ongoing struggle of black men and women for the right to vote, while also recognizing the rise of black elected and appointed officials, and campaigns for equal rights legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month will be commemorated in Oak Park, throughout the month of February, with community wide events including stories with author Senyah Haynes invoking the timeless African oral tradition of sharing essential and often overlooked contributions of African American’s to American history, at Oak Park Public Library on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and the fourteenth “Harambee” Black History performance at Longfellow Elementary School on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, Oak Park parent, Donna Callender, started “Harambee”, Shahili for “let’s pull together”, with Longfellow School “Parents of African American Children” (PAAC) in 2006, so that their sons and daughters could connect to their heritage and take pride in expressing it; and the program has continued to grow to include students of all cultures and ages in the Village of Oak Park to celebrate Black Excellence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Anan Abu-Taleb, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2020 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in the Village of Oak Park, and urge all citizens to be cognizant of and participate in events arranged for this time.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2020.

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Village President, Anan Abu-Taleb

ATTEST:

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Vicki Scaman, Village Clerk