

*Office of the Mayor
The City of Coral Gables*

Proclamation

WHEREAS, as a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice, thus his hopes to raise awareness of African Americans and their contributions to civilization were realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925; said event was first celebrated during a week in February, 1926; and

WHEREAS, the celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial, when then President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of African Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;" and since then the entire nation has come to recognize the importance of this celebration, thus each American President thereafter has designated the month of February as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the month of February includes the birthdays of such notable historic figures as Frederick Douglass and our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln; and also acknowledges special observances and programs wherein famous Black Leaders such as the esteemed Educator Booker T. Washington, widely renowned historian and author of "The Souls of Black Folk" Dr. W.E.B. du Bois and acknowledged as our nation's most revered crusader for Human Rights, Preacher and Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VINCE LAGO, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission and the citizens of the "City Beautiful," do hereby proclaim the Month of February 2022 as "Black History Month in Coral Gables," with this year's national theme of:

" BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS "

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I urge you to join me in observance of Black History Month, with an emphasis on the importance of Black Health and Wellness, and acknowledging the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, and birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etcetera, throughout the African Diaspora, as well as celebratory activities and initiatives throughout Black communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this fifteenth day of February, A.D., 2022.

Vince LAGO
Mayor

Michael Mena
Vice Mayor

Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner

Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Commissioner

Kirk R. Menendez
Commissioner