

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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, RAUL VALDES-FAULI**, 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 2021 as "Black History Month in Coral Gables," with this year's national theme of:

**"THE BLACK FAMILY: REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY, AND DIVERSITY"**

**IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF**, I urge you to join me in observance of Black History Month, with an emphasis on the representation, identity, and diversity of the black family, as the theme speaks, through history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, and anthropology, offering a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.

**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 ninth day of February, A.D., 2021.

**Raul Valdes-Fauli**  
Mayor

**Vince Lago**  
Vice Mayor

**Jorge L. Fors, Jr.**  
Commissioner

**Patricia Keon**  
Commissioner

**Michael Mena**  
Commissioner