

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, 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 2020 as "African American History Month in Coral Gables," with this year's national theme of:

“AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VOTE”

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I urge you to join me in observance of African American History Month, as 2020 marks 150 years of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War, as the theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote.

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 eleventh day of February, A.D., 2020.

Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor

Vince Lago
Vice Mayor

Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Commissioner

Patricia Keon
Commissioner

Michael Mena
Commissioner