

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; Woodson also realized the importance of providing a theme to focus attention on the public, with the intent to bring to the public's consciousness important developments that merit emphasis; 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, during National Black History Month, we celebrate the legacy of Black Americans whose power to lead, to overcome, and to expand the meaning and practice of American democracy has helped our Nation become a more fair and just society; and

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 2023 as "Black History Month in Coral Gables," with this year's national theme of:

"BLACK RESISTANCE"

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I urge you to join me in observance of Black History Month, acknowledging the efforts of African Americans to advocate for a dignified self-determined life in a just democratic society in the United States and beyond, thus finding ways to protect black lives, via lobbying and achieving success in doing so via black led institutions.

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 fourteenth day of February, A.D., 2023.

Vince Lago
Mayor

Michael Mena
Vice Mayor

Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner

Jim Cason
Commissioner

Kirk R. Menendez
Commissioner