

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1926, famed activist, writer, and preeminent historian Carter G. Woodson influenced the American Historical Society to designate the second week of February as “Negro History Week”; as President of the National Historical Society, Carter G. Woodson chose February because the birthdays of two individuals who were very influential in the lives of African Americans fell in that month: former slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Negro History Week officially became Black History Month during the nation’s bicentennial in 1976; celebrated in the United States and Canada, it is a time to remember the many people, events, and contributions of Black and African Americans, historically and currently, not only in the United States, but throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the contributions to social activism, science, art, education, law, technology, culture, government, and entertainment by Black and African Americans in the United States have been meaningful and beneficial to the development of our nation and nations throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, there truly is no United States history without Black history, and the observance of Black History Month calls our nation’s attention to the continued need to combat racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month challenges us to learn about African Americans who have struggled against the cruelties of slavery, discrimination, and economic and social inequality, and despite these trials, have fiercely and courageously shaped American society through service, leadership, and intellectual power in every enterprise and walk of life; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to reflect and celebrate the resilience, contributions, and legacy of those who helped build our nation; advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans; and continue to fight against prejudice to secure lives of dignity, equity, and opportunity for all residents to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month has special significance to King County, which was re-designated in honor of our country’s foremost civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1986, with the State Legislature making it official in 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim the month of February 2025 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in King County and ask all residents to join us in commemorating the countless contributions of Black and African Americans to our nation and the world, not only during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

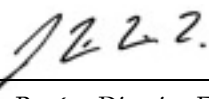
DATED this ELEVENTH day of FEBRUARY, 2025.



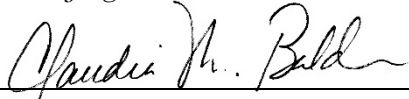
Girmay Zahilay, Council Chair, District Two



Rod Dembowski, District One



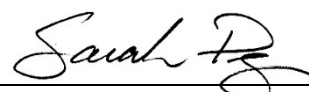
Jorge L. Barón, District Four



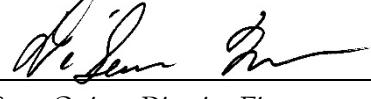
Claudia Balducci, District Six




Teresa Mosqueda, District Eight



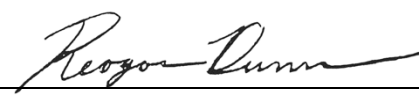
Sarah Perry, Council Vice-Chair, District Three



De'Sean Quinn, District Five



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, Council Vice-Chair, District Nine

