

CITY OF LACEY OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, the many achievements and contributions made by Black and African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development are celebrated; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and initiated Negro History Week in 1926, selecting the month of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Blacks in American History and beyond, advance the cause of civil rights, and strengthen families, communities, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the first enslaved Africans were brought to the Americas 403 years ago marking the beginning of legalized slavery which continued with the founding of the United States of America, and was legal in the country until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865; and

WHEREAS, since the abolishment of slavery, many iterations of racist laws and policies were instituted across the Country that served to disenfranchise blacks and African Americans from full political, economic, educational, and social opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these abhorrent attempts to enslave and then exclude them, as a result of their determination, hard work, and perseverance, Blacks have made invaluable and lasting contributions to our community, the state, the nation, and the world; achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, medicine, the military, sports, and the arts; and

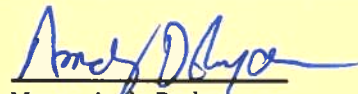
WHEREAS, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's 2023 theme is, "Black Resistance", and

WHEREAS, the Lacey City Council is committed to creating a community where all who come here can feel safe and welcome, and that the observance of Black History Month calls our City's attention to the continued need to dismantle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Ryder, Mayor of the City of Lacey, on behalf of the Lacey City Council, do hereby proclaim February, 2023, as

Black History Month

in the City of Lacey and urge all community members to recognize the continued need to dismantle racism and to build a society that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.



Mayor Andy Ryder
February 16, 2023