



CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Black History month started in 1926 when distinguished Black author and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, launched Negro History Week to celebrate and showcase the historical contributions of Black Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Carter G. Woodson selected the second week of February because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, which had been notable dates for the Black community since the start of the twentieth century; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, it evolved into a month-long celebration and became a national holiday when President Gerald Ford officially labeled the month of February as Black History Month to highlight the contributions that Black Americans have made in every field, from science, the arts to politics, and religion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black History Month theme for 2023, Black Resistance, explores how Black Americans have resisted historical and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms, and police killings, since the nation's earliest days; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to reflect on both the history and teachings of Black Americans and to focus on the progress, richness, and diversity of Black American achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a moral imperative that each of us learns about, sheds light upon, and condemns the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black Americans continue to experience and endure, but moreover that each of us takes action to realize true reforms; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Costa Mesa continues to work toward becoming a more inclusive community in which all citizens are respected and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Costa Mesa is proud to honor the history and contributions of Black Americans in our community, throughout our state and nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2023 as **Black History Month** in the City of Costa Mesa and encourage all residents to join me in celebrating the diversity and character of our community and to continue to work towards the ideals of equality, freedom, and justice.

**Dated** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

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John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa