

Whereas

Whereas, the City of Portland takes pride in joining Americans throughout the country in recognizing February 2021 as Black History Month; and

Whereas, Black History Month recognizes and pays tribute to the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of our shared history; and

Whereas, the theme for 2021, “The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity,” acknowledges the historical and modern-day challenges faced by people of African descent, denied opportunities to be represented, void of limits, stereotypes, and distortions that tend to marginalize and perpetuate the negative perceptions created and sustained by the ideals and actions of White Supremacy in all of its direct and indirect impacts and applications; and

Whereas, the Black Family has historically been a target of attack and disregard since the beginnings of this country when Black individuals were dehumanized and treated as property and families were torn apart for profit; and

Whereas, generations of African American individuals, families, and communities, have played a significant role in protesting the necessity for Black individuals and families to be viewed and valued as human beings, respected, dignified, and worthy; and

Whereas, local laws and business practices were established to exclude African American families and ensure their representation were limited to certain areas and restricted from being represented in others; and

Whereas, the Black family has been subject to discrimination due to media and entertainment reinforced stereotypes that demonstrate ignorance around the diversity that exists within the Black community; and

Whereas, we believe emphasis needs to be on putting forward people of African descent in all our complex and multi-faceted humanity, rather than relying on tired stereotypes to perpetuate negative perceptions; and

Whereas, we commend the many achievements, successes, and contributions of African Americans in various movements as there has been a significant rise of black representation and diversity locally and nationally in many contexts; and

Whereas, the attacks on the Black Family have been intended to harm the African-American community, in many instances it has created deeper, more determined roots from which a foundation of incredible strength, resilience, beauty, creativity, love, and unity, supporting growth in the areas of education, science, medicine, arts, sports, finance, and politics; and

Whereas, to this day millions of African Americans across the country are experiencing representations of themselves woven throughout government, politics, entertainment, spiritual sectors, medical and wellness industry, business, and media that inspires, motivates, and models attainable possibilities; and

Whereas, there are few, if any, things more beautiful than the loving touch of a strong Black mother, the kind encouraging words of a strong Black father, the genuine respect and consideration of a strong understanding child; and African Americans are prepared to go to battle for what should be rightfully ours, this preparedness is a part of our narrative and has cultivated our courage, drive, and resilience in the face of adversity and inequality, all of which is the Identity of the Black family; and

Whereas, inequality and injustice of Black people continue to plague our cities, states, and country, and it is the responsibility of residence to advance the American notion of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all; and

Whereas, acknowledging the significant contributions of how our diverse culture enriches and broadens the American experience of which Black heritage is an inseparable part as it weaves throughout our country's history, profoundly influencing every aspect of our lives as well as other dominant culture groups; and

Whereas, despite many historical and present-day obstacles and acts of oppression, the Black Family has continually shown strength and resilience; a demonstration of our pride, our fortitude, and our hope to leave a better legacy for future generations.

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim February 2021 to be

Black History Month

in Portland and encourage all residents to observe this month.

Proclaim February 2021 to be Black History Month
(Proclamation introduced by Mayor Wheeler
and Commissioner Hardesty)

Filed January 26, 2021

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By Keelan McClymont
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Rubio		
2. Ryan		
3. Hardesty		
4. Mapps		
Wheeler		