



Resolution No. 2 *20* 24

**A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024
AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF NORWOOD, OHIO**

WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness ...; and

WHEREAS, Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of what became the United States as early as the 17th century; and

WHEREAS, African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Louis Armstrong, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Home, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, and Edith Savage-Jennings, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States; and

WHEREAS, contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States; and

WHEREAS, many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed; and

WHEREAS, African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military; and

WHEREAS the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, to enhance knowledge of Black history through The Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals; and

WHEREAS, the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS on January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris, a woman of color, was the first woman to be sworn in as Vice-President of the United States of America; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Norwood, State of Ohio, that it:

(1) acknowledges that all people in the City of Norwood are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, including the City of Norwood, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States, including the City of Norwood;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the City of Norwood to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States;


(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and

(6) declares February 2024 to be “Black History Month” in Norwood, Ohio, to encourage our residents to learn about Black History.

PASSED 2/13/2024
Date



Joseph S. Geers
President of Council

ATTEST:

Natalie Assaf, the duly appointed Clerk of Council, attests that this resolution was passed at a regular/special meeting of Norwood City Council on the 13th day of February, 2024 in compliance with the rules of Norwood City Council and the laws of the State of Ohio. This resolution was submitted to the Mayor of the City of Norwood, Ohio for his signature on the 13th day of February, 2024.

N. Assaf
Natalie Assaf
Clerk of Council

APPROVED 13 FEB 24
Date

Victor Schneider
Victor Schneider
Mayor

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION:

Natalie Assaf, the duly appointed Clerk of Council, attests that this Ordinance was published in the Cincinnati Enquirer on 2/27/24 and 3/5/24.
(Name of Newspaper) (date) (date)

N. Assaf
Natalie Assaf
Clerk of Council

1st Reading _____
Date

2nd Reading _____
Date

3rd Reading _____
Date

All 3 Readings 2/13/24
Date

Tabled _____
Date

Vetoed _____
Date



City of Norwood Request for Ordinance, Resolution, Amendment, or Repeal

Date of Request: 1/30/2024	Date Needed: 2/13/2024
Request(s) should be submitted by the Wednesday, at noon, before date needed for Council, earlier if possible.	
Requested By:	Susan Hoover, Councilmember
Contact:	
Document Requested:	Resolution
Executive Summary of document needed:	
If an amendment or repeal request, list existing Ordinance Number(s)/Section(s) of Ordinance to be amended or repealed, etc. (or attach documents and/or copies as appropriate)	
Requesting a resolution observing and celebrating February 2024 as Black History Month in the City of Norwood.	
Action Requested:	Emergency - Three Readings at One Meeting with Immediate Effectivity
If Emergency clause or suspension of rules for all three readings is needed, explain:	
Special Notes/Instructions	