

City of Highland Park Mayoral Proclamation



In Recognition of

Black History Month

WHEREAS, The origins of Black History Month come from early 20th-century historian Carter G. Woodson's desire to spotlight the accomplishments of African Americans. Mainstream historians left out African Americans from the narrative of American history up until the 1960s, and Woodson worked his entire career to correct this blinding oversight. His creation of Negro History Week in 1926 paved the way for the establishment of Black History Month in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Woodson chose February for the first Negro History Week because it included the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (February 12), celebrated for the Emancipation Proclamation that freed many American slaves, and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass (February 14); and

WHEREAS, Woodson hoped that Negro History Week would encourage better relations between blacks and whites in the United States as well as inspire young African Americans to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of their ancestors; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, as the United States was celebrating its bicentennial, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History expanded the traditional week-long celebration of African-American history to a month, and Black History Month was born; and

WHEREAS, the national theme for this year's observance is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is home to nearly 850,000 African Americans currently and, throughout history, many have played significant roles in Illinois' economic, cultural, spiritual and political development while working tirelessly to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

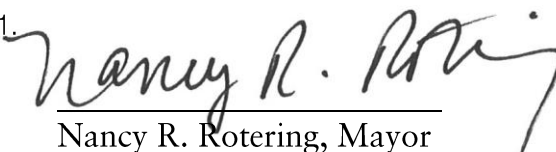
WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our state and throughout the nation.

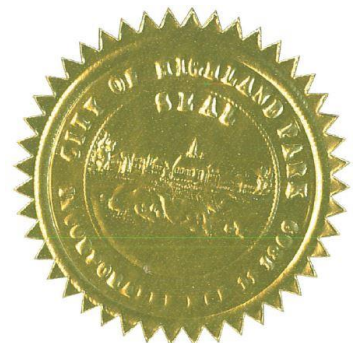
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor of the City of Highland Park, have the distinct honor of proclaiming the Month of February as

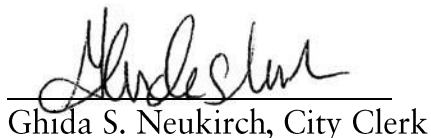
Black History Month

throughout the City of Highland Park and encourage all residents celebrate this important observance and to continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2021.


Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor




Ghida S. Neukirch, City Clerk