



**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Black History Month was formally adopted to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience, which goes back thousands of years and includes some of the greatest, most advanced and innovative societies in our history that we can all draw inspiration from; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the stories and teachings of those who helped build our nation, took a stance against prejudice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the cause of civil rights, and strengthened families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the City of Rockville's honor, strength and stature can be attributed to the diversity of cultures and traditions that are celebrated by the residents of this great City; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of their determination, hard work, intelligence and perseverance, African Americans have made valuable and lasting contributions to the City of Rockville and to our country, achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, and the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, during Black History Month all Americans are encouraged to reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice; and

**WHEREAS**, we hear about heroes such as Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and many other famous African Americans, but there are countless others whose achievements have contributed to the American promise, enriching our lives right from the start.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Council of Rockville do hereby proclaim the month of February 2017 to be BLACK HISTORY MONTH in the City of Rockville and encourage all residents to recognize and appreciate the many contributions made by African Americans throughout this region and to participate in the many educational events honoring the contributions of Black Americans.



*Bridget Donnell Newton*  
Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor

*Beryl L. Feinberg*  
Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember

*Virginia D. Onley*  
Virginia D. Onley, Councilmember

*John John Carr*  
Julie Palakovich Carr, Councilmember

*Mark Pierzchala*  
Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

January 23, 2017