



Proclamation

WHEREAS, founded on work beginning in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson now known as the “**Father of Black History**”, to bring attention to the need for acknowledgement and accurately representing Black and African American history, Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University used the foundation laid by Woodson to found Black History Month in 1970; and beginning in 1976, every president has declared the month of February as “Black History Month”. The theme for 2023 is “Black Resistance”, and

WHEREAS, Black and African Americans have made innumerable contributions that have enriched America and indeed the lives of every American; and every American should acknowledge and express thankfulness for these contributions; and Black and African Americans have made and continue to make America a better place and Americans a better people; and

WHEREAS, throughout the arc of history to the present day, Black and African Americans have experienced and endured the inhumanity of injustices and inequities-not just from societal and institutional biases and racism rooted in white supremacy, but also from other Americans, and

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

WHEREAS, to be silent in voice and complacent in action is to be complicit in the inhumanity and injustice; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Natalie Rogers, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce, NAACP Santa Rosa and Sonoma County Branch, Sonoma County Black Forum, Sonoma County Black Coalition, Entrepreneur of Tomorrow Foundation, Petaluma Blacks for Community Development, Blacks United, 100 Black Men of Sonoma County, Inc., Black Churches, and the Black Community as a whole, do hereby recognize February 2023 as

NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AND I CALL UPON EACH OF US to **listen** to Black voices; to **learn** about experiences of Black and African Americans throughout history but also today; to **shed light upon** and **condemn** the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black and African Americans experience and endure; to **take ownership** for each of our roles in perpetuating these; to **confront** and end biases and racism stoked by white supremacy; and to **take action** to realize true reforms in ourselves, our community, our culture and our institutions to abolish injustice and inequities the Black and African Americans still experience and endure today



Mayor Natalie Rogers
February 28, 2023