



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson, along with other members of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, established Negro History Week in February 1926 to create and popularize knowledge about the Black history; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month, a time in which we honor the work, efforts and achievements by Black Americans and recognize the central role of Black Americans in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Black Forum is a one-hundred percent volunteer run 501(c)(3) that is committed to providing quality programming for Sonoma County youth; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Black Forum was created to help shape the intellectual discourse and dialogue to consider the African American experience, to support local youth and the Sonoma County community by creating opportunities to train, learn, develop 21st century skills, and foster agency in Sonoma County and the surrounding Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, this group collaborated with the Sonoma State University's Black Student Union to host the 2018 African American Youth Summit, funded by the Community Advisory Board's Community Improvement Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, 65 Sonoma County black youth were in attendance and participated in a panel discussion, a college and career fair, a campus tour, workshops and presentations on college and career readiness, financial literacy, an introduction to coding, and an opportunity to learn about historically African American, Greek lettered fraternity and sororities and Leaders Inspiring Fruitful Tomorrow (LIFT) and Programmers of Tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Black Forum has provided food to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic by hosting three food distribution events which served 1,165 people in Sonoma County who do not have access to traditional food safety nets; and plan to hold at least five food distribution events this year along with an Urban Gardening series that addresses gardening in small spaces and growing fresh foods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Chris Rogers, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, recognize the Sonoma County Black Forum and their contributions to the Santa Rosa community, and do hereby proclaim February as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mayor Chris Rogers
February 23, 2021