City of Santa Rosa

Proclamation

WHEREAS, every February, Americans honor the rich history and contributions of Black Americans who have shaped our nation in countless ways through centuries of struggle and triumph.

WHEREAS, Black History Month was first proposed by scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 to lift the Black experience with a fuller telling of America's story; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the Nation's bicentennial, President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month (African American History Month) a national observance stating, "We can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history"; and

WHEREAS, for 2026, the theme for Black History Month is "A Century of Black History Commemorations," marking 100 years since Dr. Woodson first established this recognition, and underscoring the enduring importance of remembrance, education and collective reflection; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Rosa recognizes that our community is enriched by Black residents, families, leaders, educators, artists, entrepreneurs, and advocates who contribute to the cultural vibrancy, civic strength, and shared progress of our city; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing Black History Month, "A Century of Black History Commemorations," the City of Santa Rosa reaffirms its commitment to uplift all residents, foster a community where learning, belonging, and mutual respect are central to our identity, and cultivate a future rooted in shared understanding and unity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Mark Stapp, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby recognize February 2026 as

NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"A Century of Black History Commemorations"

Mayor Mark Stapp
February 24, 2026