

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month is observed in February of each year and seeks to highlight the experience of Black Americans and to recognize and pay tribute to the many contributions of Black Americans to the society and culture of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black Americans' contributions began in 1926 with Negro History week, and each year since 1976 the President of the United States has proclaimed the month of February to be Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, massacres, and police killings since our arrival upon these shores; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2023 is *Black Resistance* to recognize the ways Black Americans have resisted disenfranchisement and subjugation by exercising political advocacy, non-violent civil disobedience, pursuing reformation of discriminatory institutions; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have nurtured and protected Black lives and autonomy through insurrections against those who enslaved them, and self-liberation by mass exodus and emigration; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have supported resistance efforts with distinct contributions in education, literature, sports, music, media, and the establishment of Black-led institutions; and

WHEREAS, Black American resistance strategies exemplified by the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements have served as a model for other social movements in the country; and

WHEREAS, there have been many successes and progress toward a more equitable Arlington and Nation, yet there is still much work that remains;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim February 2023,

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Arlington County and call upon the residents and employees of the County to observe this occasion by recognizing the contributions of Black Americans to our society in general and to Arlington County in particular.



Christian Dorsey
Chair