

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 American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2024 is *African Americans and the Arts* to recognize the ways African Americans have excelled in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression; and

WHEREAS, artistic and cultural movements such as the Black Renaissance, Hip-Hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African American descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world, and

WHEREAS, African American artists have used their art as a means to preserve history and community memory as well as for racial healing and empowerment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim February 2024, as

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.

Libby Garvey
Chair