



A PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the earliest known records of a formal celebration of Black history in the United States date to 1915 when Harvard historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which was and remains dedicated to researching and promoting the achievements of Black Americans and other people of African descent, and

WHEREAS, February has been officially recognized as “Black History Month” since 1976 when President Gerald Ford urged the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

WHEREAS, The Black Collective has placed strategic local emphasis in areas of Political Representation, Education, Health, Social Justice and Economics, and

WHEREAS, the group’s work in these areas has helped place three prominent Black female leaders in office, and

WHEREAS, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, and State Senator T’wina Nobles have introduced and advocated for legislation that supports the physical, social, and emotional Health and Wellness of Tacoma’s Black community, and

WHEREAS, their collective advocacy has helped advance significant Metro Parks Health and Wellness initiatives in areas of Tacoma where many Black members of our community reside, including replacement of People’s Pool in the Hilltop and the creation of Eastside Community Center and STAR Center, along with championing creative wellness solutions such as Parks Rx and directly mentoring youth through First Tee of South Puget Sound, and

WHEREAS they and fellow members of The Black Collective, whose efforts to address access to Health and Wellness resources for historically underserved members of the Black community, have at the same time enhanced the quality of life for all who use these facilities and programs, and

WHEREAS the 2022 theme for Black History Month celebrates Black Health & Wellness, and


WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Anti-Racism Resolution No. R32-20 to disrupt structural and institutional racism and convey the agency’s commitment to actively and intentionally incorporate racial equity in its work and our collaborative work with members of The Black Collective is an essential component to fulfilling this commitment as we collaborate on shared strategic priorities, and


WHEREAS, Metro Parks Tacoma will host a Black History Month Celebration at People’s Center on February 26 highlighting many more contributions and achievements of our Black community members,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners, hereby recognize and celebrate February as Black History Month.

The foregoing proclamation was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regularly scheduled meeting held February 14, 2022.

ATTEST:


Board President


Board Clerk

