

Resolution Recognizing February As National African-American History Month

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, African-American Historian, author, and founder of the Association for the Study of African American History, founded Negro History Week, which was celebrated during a week in February 1926, and

WHEREAS, in 1976 the week-long celebration was extended to the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, each year during the month of February, the citizens of the United States celebrate the actions, words, and achievements of African Americans who have contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have enriched our schools and communities through their commitment to promoting fairness, equality, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools further intends to encourage ongoing critical reflection and courageous conversations concerning systemic racism, social injustice, racial and ethnic bias; and to affirm the right of African American students to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, we affirm Black lives; and

WHEREAS, we commit to the 2024 national theme for the observance which is “African Americans and the Arts,” and

WHEREAS, August 2019 marked 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to present-day America, and the United States Congress established the 400 Years of African American History Commission to commemorate the historical heritage and active contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the African slave trade that created an institution of white supremacy in this nation, Africans and African Americans have nonetheless continued to persevere and move forward in society, fighting for their freedom and also for the freedom of all Americans over time; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the first African American President of the United States was elected; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Barack H. Obama was elected to serve a second term; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, California historically elected the most African Americans to serve in the Legislature, totaling 12 members; and

WHEREAS, 2018 marked the highest number of African American members serving in the United States Congress, totaling 55 members; and

WHEREAS, Africans and African Americans have been great inventors, inventing and improving on innovations such as the air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood plasma bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, the electric lamp bulb, elevator, fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee, horseshoe, lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, lock, lubricating cup, refrigerating apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone transmitter, thermostat control, traffic signal, and the typewriter; and

WHEREAS, African American History Month commemorates and celebrates the many different achievements of African Americans, whether that be in academic pursuits, business, fine arts, political action, and science;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Governing Board of the Santa Rosa City Schools District takes great pleasure in recognizing February 2024 as African American History Month, urges everyone to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during African American History Month, and encourages the staff and students of SRCS to recognize not only the many different talents of African Americans but also the great achievements, contributions, and sacrifices they have made to help create equity and equality inside and outside of the classroom.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Rosa City Schools, on this 24th day of January, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: ____ NOES: ____ ABSENT: ____ ABSTAIN: ____

Roxanne McNally, Clerk of the Board Date