

## Proclamation of February 2023 as Black History Month

**WHEREAS** Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements of Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of Black people in U.S. history; and

**WHEREAS** Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and through the struggles of other prominent Black Americans in U.S. history; and

**WHEREAS** since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS** the actions and rhetoric of certain people and/or entities calls our attention to the fact that it is long past time to confront deep racial inequities and structural racism that continue to plague Contra Costa County and our nation; and

**WHEREAS** the unwarranted deaths of Black Americans who fought for civil rights and equality for all in the U.S., including the Port Chicago 50 in Contra Costa County, are symbols of that inequity; and we are reminded to reflect on Black Americans who have been marginalized and negatively impacted the most by false narratives, the economy, health care, education, housing and the disproportionate aftermath of the pandemic in the Black community; and

**WHEREAS** as we strive to fully live up to the founding principles of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County— that all people are created equal and have the right to peaceful and prosperous lives – we commit to the goal of having a Central Committee that looks like America – one that reflects the full talents and diversity of the American people; and

**WHEREAS** we commemorate the long legacy of political and civic leadership within the Black community represented by many Black elected officials in Contra Costa County, including Diana Becton, the first Black woman to serve as the Contra Costa District Attorney, Audrey Comeaux, the first Black woman to serve on the West County Wastewater Board of Directors and Patt Young, the first Black woman to serve on the Contra Costa Water District Board; and

**WHEREAS** today the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County has Black American party leaders who are publicly elected members, club representatives, and/or California Democratic Party Executive Board members, directly paving the way for greater diversity and Black representation within the Democratic Party;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County hereby proclaims February 2023 as Black History Month and encourages all constituents to join us in celebrating this special month; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on the Democrats of Contra Costa County to honor the history and achievements of Black Americans and to reflect on the centuries of struggle and progress that have brought us to this time of reckoning, redemption, and hope.

2022 Proclamation revised with input from DPCCC Black American leaders

Approved by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, November 17, 2022