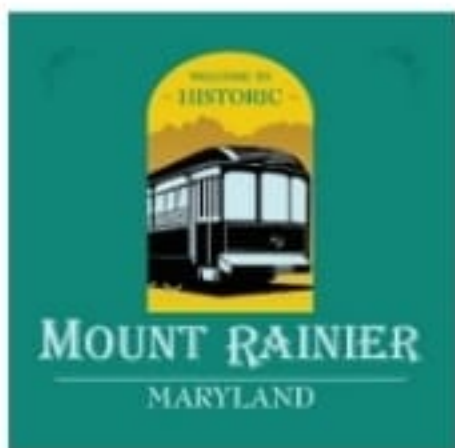




City of Mount Rainier

Proclamation in Recognition and Celebration of Black History Month

WHEREAS, the African American community has made a meaningful and significant contributions to the City of Mount Rainier, State of Maryland, the United State and the world; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is nationally recognized as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS: In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS: Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by Black peoples in the United States, and

WHEREAS: In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America, Canada and Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, many Black people have made the City of Mount Rainier their home in spite of the abhorrent attempts to exclude them, and have made significant contributions to this city, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Black History is American History and should be taught to students since elementary along with Ethics Studies; and

WHEREAS, the African American community has served in the US Armed forces since the first war, even though, back home, they had no rights and segregation was at its peak, we honor their sacrifices and we celebrate our Veterans; and

WHEREAS, today, we celebrate and affirm the importance of Black Health and Wellness to our community, throughout our state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the diversity of Black people in The City of Mount Rainier and our nation and the Black diaspora, whether they self-identify as African, African-American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Asian, or Black; and

WHEREAS, we recognize this year's Black History Month theme of "African Americans and Labor"; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge systemic racism has led to African Americans being more likely to die at an early age from all causes, more commonly misdiagnosed, and impacted by health inequities throughout the health care system that have traumatized the Black community; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate Black health and wellness, including the legacy of Black scholars, midwives, nurses, doctors, and practitioners of not only Western medicine, but all the other indigenous ways of promoting health and healing throughout the Black diaspora; and

WHEREAS, during the Black History Month, we elevate the achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism, stand up and be an ally and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, throughout Maryland and our nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier will continue to work towards becoming an inclusive city in which all the community—past, present and future—are respected and that the African American community is recognized for their contributions to our city, country and the world; and

WHEREAS, the African Americans have played a key role in the advancement of this City and world in the multiple fields of studies including and not limited to the Arts, Culture, Science, Math, Politics, History, Business, Music, Sports, Medicine, Economic Development, Education, Agriculture, Literature, Dance, High Technology and Human and Civil Rights, including LGBTQAI+ rights. There is no field that the African American community have not positively impacted and have advanced; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier commits to doing everything in our power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding and implement changes to ensure that racism and the unjust treatment of any person are not tolerated in any way or form within the City of Mount Rainier; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all citizens of Mount Rainier to remember the contributions and legacy of those who helped build our nation, fought against prejudice to secure lives of dignity and opportunity for all of our citizens, advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans, and strengthened our families and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Celina Benitez, Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier do hereby proclaim February as Black History Month in the City of Mount Rainier and every year from today on. The City of Mount Rainier will display the Pan-African flag at City Hall in the Month of February celebrating National Black History Month; and urge all our citizens to celebrate African American community heritage and culture and continue our efforts year around to create a world that is more just, peaceful, equitable and prosperous for all and stand up for injustice, voting rights, oppression and protection of Human and Civil Rights. Today and every month is Black History Month.



Honorable Mayor Celina Benitez
City of Mount Rainier, MD
January 31, 2025