

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered to be the father of Black History, and the president of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) established the second week in February Negro History Week in 1926; and

WHEREAS, February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, a former slave who was prominent in the abolitionist movement to end slavery; and

WHEREAS, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in conjunction with the nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976 challenging America 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 United States Congress passed "National Black History Month" into law in 1986 with the goal of brining awareness to the ongoing efforts of Blacks for freedom, justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2022 is Black Health and Wellness focusing on the contributions and breakthroughs of Black professionals as well as speaking to the cultural richness of those 'non-traditional' health and wellness practitioners, e.g., doulas, midwives, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the city of Huntsville is home to three Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University and Drake State Community & Technical College graduating students who excel in all fields including medicine, STEM and social services; and

WHEREAS, the city of Huntsville has a rich legacy of Black business owners, educators, public servants, community leaders, athletes, civil rights pioneers and more;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Tommy Battle, Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the month of February, in the year 2022, as

Black History Month

and encourage residents to join in the celebration of the vast accomplishments and contributions of Black people to American and world history.

DATED this 10th day of February, 2022.

Tommy Battle
Mayor

