

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since the beginning of what Carter G. Woodson founded in 1926 as Negro History Week, later expanded to Black History Month in 1976, February has been a time when the nation reflects on the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans, recognizing that understanding and honoring this history strengthens our shared commitment to justice, equity, and the dignity of all people; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina boasts many noteworthy names and places for Black History Month: the unknown indentured servants who were free men and could vote in colonial times, soldiers who fought on either side during the American Revolution, and men and women who offered resistance and fled to freedom during antebellum times, or joined in the fight for freedom with the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, through the Civil Rights era to modern times, North Carolina has mirrored or amplified the African American movements to freedom and equality in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill's Black community has been integral to our town's identity, from the founding of historically black neighborhoods like Northside and Pine Knolls, to the courageous student activists who desegregated local businesses in the 1960s, to today's leaders in education, healthcare, arts, and public service; and

WHEREAS, during his month, we commemorate heroism, patriotism, and enterprise of Black Americans, many of whom lived through and surmounted the scourge of segregation, racial prejudice, and discrimination to enrich every fiber of American life and our local community.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby recognize February 2026 as

Black History Month

in the Town of Chapel Hill and urge everyone to celebrate the contributions of Black and African Americans to our community, our Nation, and the World.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX.



John A. Oliver