



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The Black community has abundant cultural diversity that contributes to the vibrancy and prosperity of Minnesota. Black history is integral to Minnesota history, deeply shaping and impacting the direction of our state; and
- WHEREAS: In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard scholar, established the observance of Negro History Week to inspire schools and communities to organize local celebrations and host performances and lectures. The event was first celebrated during a week in February that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and
- WHEREAS: The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of Black history, and the Civil Rights Movement focused on Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture. The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976; and
- WHEREAS: African Americans have made innumerable contributions to Minnesota's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development. The month of February encourages us to reflect on the future of the state and celebrate the many African Americans who have made contributions in the areas of medicine, law, education, politics, business, the arts, and more; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to many prominent Black trailblazers, including Dr. Robert S. Brown, the first Black doctor from Minnesota; Lena Smith, Minnesota's first Black woman lawyer; Richard Green, the first Black superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools; Neva Walker, the first Black woman elected to the Minnesota legislature; Sharon Sayles Belton, the first Black mayor of Minneapolis; and Melvin Carter, the first Black mayor of Saint Paul; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota remains committed to acknowledging the generations of African Americans who struggled against adversity, injustice, and discrimination in order to achieve equal rights in American society; and
- WHEREAS: Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals. We must reflect on our collective past, reveal its impact on present conditions and implement equitable solutions for a more just future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2023 as:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26th day of January.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.
SECRETARY OF STATE

