



# Office of the City Clerk

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**Indexes:** COMMENDATIONS & DECLARATIONS

**Attachments:** 1. R2017-145.pdf

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2/22/2017	1	City Council	Introduced (Agreed Calendar)	
2/22/2017		City Council	Adopted	Pass

### **A CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION Recognizing the Significance of Black History Month**

**WHEREAS, It has been the long-established custom of the Chicago City Council, this august Legislature, to honor the legacy of those distinguished individuals and groups whose life, work and civic endeavor serve to enhance the quality of life for Chicagoans; and**

**Whereas the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Chicago historian set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of African Americans; and**

**Whereas, Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the forerunner to Black History Month;**

**Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's efforts to enhance knowledge of Black history at the legendary Wabash YMCA; and**

**Whereas, the first Africans were brought involuntarily to the shores of the Americas as slaves\* early as the 17th century; and**

Whereas today's Africans in America and their descendants are now known as Black Americans and

Whereas, African-Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of basic, fundamental rights; and

Whereas, despite slavery, African-Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States, including the Black man of Haitian descent, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, who first settled in and founded the City of Chicago; and

Whereas, today we honor prominent African-American Illinois legislators such as John W. E. Thomas of Chicago, the first African American Illinois legislator, who was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1876- and the first African American elected to the Illinois Senate was Adelbert H. Roberts in 1924.

Further, in 1915, the first African-American American elected to the Chicago City Council in 1971 and; the current City Council Black Caucus; and

Further, in 1915, the first African-American American elected to the Chicago City Council in 1971 and; the current City Council Black Caucus; and

Whereas, we salute the late Anna Langford, who was the first Black woman elected to the Chicago City Council in 1971 and; the current City Council Black Caucus; and

Whereas, we further recognize Cecil Partee, the first African-American President of the Illinois State Senate and the first Black Mayor of Chicago; and

Whereas, we further recognize a few African-American

(^ Literature: The^ Lorraine Hansberry, Booker T.

Washington, Rh<sup>^</sup>  
Neale iHurstbn, d

Mbrrison,-Ralph Ellison, Zora

(2piyiusic; ^e-music of ^hemas^At Bb.rseyy Willie Dixon, Vlahalia Jacksbn,  
Curtis Mf^ffil&l^

(^Ar& & ittbtics: The Resolye of artists like actor Andre Brauher, Dr. Margaret

BurrpuJhs^A^^ jyiptlejp, and The^ster ^ates, to athietes.such as Jackie  
Robinson.

Mi:chaei Jordan, Ernie 'Mr. Cub' Banks, Althea Gibson, Jesse Owens, Wilma  
Rudolph, Syreena and VenuS-Williarrisv and !Mubammad»Ali;

{4}Bcience & Technology: The Sci,e  
Carver,

of George Washington

Charles Dreiw, Dr. Mark Dean, who invented the personal desktop computer for  
IBM, ahj Astroft^

Leader^  
B^IIBIDk, fhurgbo^l^

of leaders: such as Frederick; Ppuglass, Mary McLeod  
Dr. Jfl'ar\$^^

0) Hiyil R^gh^lrl^

thelfront lines^in the batee-against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth, Fannie  
Lou

Hammer^ and Moss Parks, In additip^

I ike Ruth

PeJIs, a-west side resident known as?theIRosa Parks of .LawndaIP; and

^Whejieas mthe^ce^ofmjustices, United States citizens of

all ;r,acje;s committed themsjete^ noble ideas upon which the United States  
was founded and courageously-fought for the rights and freedom of African-  
Americans; and

Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., iMaicpim X and Medgar Evers, and  
countless other unsung 'heroes and sheroes' lived, worked, fought, marched  
and died to make real these noble ideas of Freedom, Equality & Opportunity,"  
and

Whereas a memorial commemorating;the life and-ideals pf D.r. Martin Luther

King, Jr., was placed on the National Mall for all people to observe his leadership in the struggle for freedom and truth; and the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. stands as a testament to our historical and ongoing legacy of achievement; and

Whereas Barack Hussein Obama was elected and reelected the 44th President of the United States, making him the first African American chief executive and overcoming one of the last great racial challenges in politics in this country, and his Presidential library will be housed on the city's south side in his honor;

Now, therefore; be it Resolved that - We the Mayor and the members of the Chicago

City Council do hereby proclaim that this document, submitted on \_\_\_\_\_ as the "Chicago City Council

Black History Month of 2017" for  
Alicia Mitts, Alderman-37th Ward

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and included in the official record of the Journal of Proceedings of the Chicago City Council in recognition of our gratitude and esteem

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