



Office of the City Clerk

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Legislation Text

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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 Black Americans; and

Whereas, Abraham 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 flourished in the City of Chicago; and

Each year on this day 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 North, representing the 1st Congressional District; 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 Senator; and

and a few African-American achievers:

(^ Literature: The^ Lorraine Hansberry, Booker T. Washington, R. H. Morrison, -Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, and

(2piyusic; ^e-music of ^hemas^At Bb.rseyy Willie Dixon, IVlahalia Jacksbn, Curtis Mf^ffil&I^

(^Ar& & itbtetics: The Resolve 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 of George Washington Carver, Charles Dreiw, Dr. Mark Dean, who invented the personal desktop computer for IBM, ahj Astroft^

Leader^ of leaders: such as Frederick; Ppuglass, Mary McLeod B^IIBIDk, fhurgbo^I^ Dr. Jfl'ar\$^^

0) Hiyil R^gh^Irl^ thelf front 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 arid truth;; and the hew National Museum of Afripah-Americah iliistpry^Quto Washingtonp nj Q;C. stands as a test-ament to our historical and ongoing legacy Of achie^emeht; and

Whereas Barack Hussein Ohama wasrelected 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'sisouth side in his honor;

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

'City%oifhcil dp hereb^^ijmaHy prpplaim that this document, submitted oh
A^^I^y* f^nialf^\$Sij Msff riiaf be^ as \$hp "Chicago City
Council
Brack History IWlpht-h itieMMPH of ^j017"_
ima Mitts, Alderman-37th Ward

Be It Further iRespjyed, That a suitable copy pf this respljutipn be prepared and
included in the official record of the Journal of .Proceedings of the Chicago City
'Council in ^recognition ofiour grati^ua^e^and esteem^

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