



## PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans who have shaped our local and national history, society, and culture in the areas of the arts, business, civil rights, economics, governance, medicine, philosophy, technology, religion, science, sports, and many others; and*

**WHEREAS**, the earliest records of a formal celebration of Black history in the United States date to 1915, when Harvard historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), which was and remains dedicated to researching and promoting the achievements of Black Americans and other people of African descent; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926 the ASALH chose the second week of February, to coincide with the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, as an appropriate time to sponsor a national recognition of Black history, encouraging schools and community groups to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs, and host performances and lectures; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month, calling upon the public 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 recognition of Black History Month affords all Americans the opportunity to reflect on the past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to continue to improve society so we can live up to the ideals of freedom, equity, justice, economic opportunity, and access for all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fircrest City Council recognizes the significant contributions, past and present, of the Black and African American community and encourages all Fircrest residents to use the month of February as an opportunity to explore Black history and gain a greater appreciation for the richness and depth of Black and African American contributions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS, of the City of Fircrest, do hereby proclaim** the month of February 2022 is Black History Month in the City of Fircrest, Washington and we encourage all citizens to join in this special observance.

Passed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2022

Brett Wittner, Mayor