



PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, in 1976 Black History Month was formally adopted, building off of the work done beginning in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to accurately represent the history and achievements of Black Americans and other people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, the theme of Black History Month 2024, "African Americans and the Arts," examines the influence Black and African Americans have had on visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, language, music, and more; and

WHEREAS, Black and African American contributions to the arts and history were denied and minimized for centuries, even as their artistry was often stolen; and

WHEREAS, artistic and cultural movements, such as the Harlem Renaissance, Black Arts, hip-hop, Afrofuturism, and others have and continue to set the standard for popular trends and leave lasting influence around the world; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has been home to many influential Black and African American artists throughout history, including musicians Quincy Jones and Jimi Hendrix, painter Jacob Lawrence, author Octavia Butler, and others; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month affords the opportunity for all residents to reflect on the past and present successes and challenges of African Americans, explore Black history, 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, residents may join in local events throughout February that recognize and celebrate Black History Month, including a community-led public event on February 25th at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS, of the City of Fircrest, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2024 as Black History Month in the City of Fircrest, Washington, and we encourage all citizens to join in this special observance through educational programs, celebrations, and activities highlighting Black and African American history.

Passed this 23rd day of January 2024

Nikki Bufford, Mayor Pro Tempore

