

Proclamation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2025

WHEREAS, during Black History Month we honor the cultural significance and impactful history of Black and African Americans, recognizing that our society's rich diversity is one of our greatest strengths; and

WHEREAS, Black history is American history, and Black Americans and African Americans, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, have always fought tirelessly for freedom, equal rights and justice for all persons; and

WHEREAS, as we rejoice in the victories won by Black and African Americans throughout our history who believed in the idea of a just and fair America, we remember that, throughout that history, our collective success as a people has been driven by bold individuals who were willing to speak out and change the status quo; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we must recommit ourselves to a fair and inclusive democracy in which all persons are respected, valued equally and able to exist in their communities without the fear of persecution, discrimination and prejudice; and,

WHEREAS, the year's theme, Black Americans and labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people, and highlights the innumerable contributions of Black business owners, laborers, CEO's, entrepreneurs, craftspeople, artisans and others whose profound impact in building and shaping our nation cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, the City of Menlo Park held its third annual Black Liberation Month Celebration at the Belle Haven Community Campus, which included cultural entertainment, live music and dance performances, spoken word presentations, youth presentations and more, and celebrated local business owners as well as those working in Belle Haven and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout February, the City is hosting several other programs in celebration of Black History Month, including a presentation on Black country music on February 12 and Black History trivia night on February 28, more information available at menlopark.gov/calendar; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED I, Drew Combs, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, hereby proclaim and celebrate February 2025 as Black History Month in Menlo Park. May we all take time this month to honor the culture, history and contributions of Black and African Americans in our city, community, state, nation and the world.

Drew Combs, Mayor
February 11, 2025