

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development: and

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted African American scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War, many African Americans fought as Union soldiers for their freedom; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, many African Americans sought a better life, free from oppression and in search of new economic opportunities, and the liberty to create their own lives; and

WHEREAS, Vienna, VA has a rich African American history dating from the 1800's; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Laurie A. DiRocco, Mayor of the Town of Vienna and on behalf of the Vienna Town Council, do hereby proclaim February 2020 as

Black History Month

In the Town of Vienna and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of February, 2020.

Laurie A. DiRocco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie J. Clark, MMC
Town Clerk