

PROCLAMATION

FORNEY



TEXAS

Whereas, Black History Month got its start in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African American, promoted Negro History Week in February. The time was selected because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, which had been notable dates for the black community since the start of the twentieth century; and

Whereas, also known as African-American History Month, it was first observed by students and faculty at Kent State University in 1970. In 1976 it evolved into a month-long celebration and became a national holiday when President Gerald Ford recognized “*the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history*” in a speech to mark the United States Bicentennial; and

Whereas, since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and has endorsed a specific theme; and

Whereas, the Black History Month 2021 theme, “***Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity***” explores the African movement, and the spread of Black families across the United States; and

Whereas, it is a time for all Americans to reflect on both the history and teachings of African Americans, and to focus on the progress, richness and diversity of African American achievements. Black History Month has no overall coordinating body - anybody can organize an event. Consequently, every year sees an eclectic mix - from historical walks to seminars - organized by, for example, local authorities, schools, and voluntary organizations;

Now, Therefore, I, Mary Penn, Mayor of the City of Forney, Texas, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 2021**, as

Black History Month

in the City of Forney and call upon everyone to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight and honor the myriad contributions of African Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and official seal this 2nd day of February, 2021.

Mary Penn, Mayor