

# Proclamation

Forney



Texas

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**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 2023 theme, ***"Black Innovation"*** explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial programs and police killings," since the nation's earliest days; 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, Amanda Lewis, Mayor of the City of Forney, Texas, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 1, 2023 through March 1, 2023**, 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 7th day of February, 2023.

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**Amanda Lewis , Mayor**