

1 [Black History Month - February 2023]

2
3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating Black History Month in the City and County of**
4 **San Francisco during the month of February 2023.**

5
6 WHEREAS, African American scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded
7 the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, later renamed to the Association for
8 the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which has historically worked to preserve,
9 sustain, and commemorate African American history and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, On February 12, 1926, Dr. Woodson designated the second week of
11 February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of the prominent abolitionist Frederick
12 Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, as Black History Week, to honor the contributions
13 made to our country and the world by African Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, Black History Month was first proposed by Black educators and the Black
15 United Students at Kent State University in February 1969 and the first celebration of Black
16 History Month took place at Kent State one year later in 1970; and

17 WHEREAS, Six years later in 1976, Black History Month was lengthened across the
18 country in educational institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, and
19 recognized by President Gerald Ford during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The month of February is also significant for the birthdays of great African
22 American pioneers and institutions, including William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Du Bois,
23 Langston Hughes, Eubie Black, Rosa Parks, Alice Walker, Leontyne Price, Toni Morrison, the
24 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the first Pan
25 African Congress; and

1 WHEREAS, February is now nationally recognized as Black History Month throughout
2 the United States and various parts of the world; and

3 WHEREAS, During Black History Month and throughout the year, the City and County
4 of San Francisco reflects on Black history, heritage, struggles, and contributions of Black
5 Americans; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco
7 commits to recognizing and celebrating Black History Month during the month of February in
8 2023, as well as every February thereafter; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
10 Francisco recognizes the inequities that exist in the African American community due to
11 slavery's legacy of systemic oppression as well as past discriminatory City policies and
12 therefore commits to reparations and policies that will improve the lives of Black people in the
13 City, not just during Black History Month but year round.