

1 [Black History Month - February 2025]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating Black History Month in the City and County of**
4 **San Francisco during the month of February 2025.**

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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 the Association for the
8 Study of African American Life and History, which has historically worked to preserve, sustain,
9 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, In 1976, Black History Month was officially recognized nationwide in
18 educational institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, with President
19 Gerald Ford calling upon the public to honor the accomplishments of Black Americans
20 throughout history during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial; 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, San Francisco has a rich Black history, with the Fillmore District once
2 known as the "Harlem of the West," a vibrant cultural and jazz hub that nurtured artists such
3 as Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and John Coltrane; and

4 WHEREAS, The Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood has been a cornerstone of San
5 Francisco's Black community, historically serving as a center for Black homeownership,
6 business development, and community activism, and continues to be a focal point in the fight
7 for environmental justice, housing equity, and economic empowerment and encompassing the
8 African American Arts and Cultural District; and

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has historically been home to a
10 strong and resilient Black community that has contributed immensely to civic life, arts, culture,
11 and social justice movements, including civil rights activism, labor organizing, and political
12 leadership; and

13 WHEREAS, February is now internationally recognized as Black History Month
14 throughout the United States and various parts of the world; and

15 WHEREAS, During Black History Month and throughout the year, the City and County
16 of San Francisco reflects on Black history, heritage, struggles, and contributions of Black
17 Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2024, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 86-
19 24 formally issuing an apology on behalf of the Board and the City and County of San
20 Francisco to African Americans and their descendants for systemic and structural
21 discrimination, targeted acts of violence, and atrocities, and committing to the rectification and
22 redress of past policies and misdeeds; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San Francisco
24 commit to recognizing and celebrating Black History Month during the month of February
25 2025; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the City and County of San
2 Francisco recognize the inequities that exist in the African American community due to the
3 legacy of systemic oppression, displacement, and past discriminatory City policies and
4 therefore commit to supporting reparations, equity initiatives, and policies that improve the
5 lives of Black people in the City, not just during Black History Month but year-round.

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