PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH, DES MOINES Recognizes and celebrates the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political progress, such as local Civil Rights trailblazers Edna Griffin and others; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month started in 1926 as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and then expanding into Black History Month in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the first African Americans arrived in Des Moines in 1843, and by 1880, 672 African American people resided in Polk County, with most living in Des Moines; and

WHEREAS, the first & only African American World War I officer candidates arrived at Fort Des Moines in 1917 to train and fight; and

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

WHEREAS, Des Moines honors the history and contributions of African Americans in our community.

Now, therefore, I, T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor of the City of Des Moines, on behalf of the City Council of Des Moines, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2020, as:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

And encourage everyone to join in this observance recognizing African Americans – past and present – in our community.

Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Des Moines, Iowa to be affixed this tenth day of February two thousand twenty.

T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor
City of Des Moines