

Office of the Mayor
Township of Bordentown

Proclamation

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we celebrate the many accomplishments and achievements by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

WHEREAS, this is a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in the United States history; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, Black History month grew out of an event that was called, “ Negro History Week”, this idea formulated by the Historian, Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, the second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas to celebrate Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, in the late 60’s thanks to the Civil Rights Movement and growing awareness of black identity “Negro History Week” grew into Black History Month and President, Gerald R. Ford in 1976 officially recognized this month and encouraged Americans to honor the accomplishments of all African Americans; and

WHEREAS, many organizations were formed to support efforts such as the NAACP which was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

WHEREAS, many African Americans have changed the course of history for the betterment of this country such as, Martin Luther King, Jr. who was the chief spokesman for non-violent activism in the Civil Rights movement and we commemorate his birthday, (January 15th,) by adopting the third Monday of the month as an American federal holiday; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Benowitz Mayor of Bordentown Township, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim and recognize Black History Month in February and encourage all residents to honor and month.

Steve Benowitz, Mayor