

*Office of the Mayor
Township of Bordentown*

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is held in February every year honoring all the successes and struggles of African Americans throughout United States history including the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, there are many people who have made a huge impact on the lives of African Americans in the United States such as Martin Luther King Jr. who as a social activist and a Baptist minister played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement from the mid 1950's until his assassination in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Robison was the first African American professional baseball player who played for the Brooklyn Dodgers and started at first base on April 15, 1947 which broke the "color barrier" in Major League Baseball; and Joe Louis, nicknamed "Brown Bomber," was the Heavyweight Champ of the World from 1937-1949 and set a new world record; and

WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth was an Evangelist, Abolitionist and Women's Rights Activist who lived a difficult life as a slave until she escaped to freedom in 1826 and is known for her inspiring speech called, "Ain't I a Woman" delivered at the Ohio Women's Conference in 1851; and Rosa Parks who helped initiate the Civil Rights Movement by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955 inspired black leaders to organize the "Montgomery Bus Boycott"; and

WHEREAS, every United States President since 1976 has designated February as Black History Month and has given each year a theme and this year's theme is "African Americans and the Vote".

I, THEREFORE, Mayor, of the Township of Bordentown, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim and recognize the outstanding achievements that are celebrated and highlighted especially during Black History Month in February and encourage the educators, librarians, public officials and residents of our township to observe February as Black History Month by participating in appropriate programs and ceremonies that reflect the immense accomplishments of African Americans.



Steve Benowitz
STEVE BENOWITZ
MAYOR