



Township of Maplewood

Frank McGehee
Mayor

PROCLAMATION *BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

WHEREAS, every February Black History Month is celebrated to raise the awareness of the achievements by Black Americans and all people of African descent in the United States; and

WHEREAS, historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson created Black History Week in 1926 to encourage the study of Black life and history; and in 1976 it was expanded to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history there have been millions of Black-Americans who have personified Black excellence by fighting for and making personal sacrifices to create a better America for all through their stellar contributions in science, technology, business, religion, the arts, education and sports; and

WHEREAS, these contributions have set a new standard for our nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Black American trailblazers include but are not limited to human rights activists Harriet Tubman, Toussaint Louverture, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X; literary scholars, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin and Amanda Gorman; Artist EGOT winners James Earl Jones and Quincy Jones; sports legends Kobe Bryant, Hank Aaron, Doug Williams, Jackie Robinson and LeBron James; and Politicians David Dinkins, Harold Washington, President Barack Obama and Vice-President Kamala Harris; and

WHEREAS, Black-Americans have bravely broken-down racial barriers in the face of unspeakable discrimination and continue to push for racial and social justice; and

WHEREAS, as a society we have witnessed a wide spectrum of bias and bigotry from an infrastructure designed to prevent Black and Brown individuals from attaining equity to the horrific images of bigotry and hate directed towards Black Americans including the loss of life; and

WHEREAS, Maplewood rejects bigotry and hate as well as the long history of institutional and structural racism toward Black Americans which has resulted in socioeconomic and other inequities that persist to this day; and

WHEREAS, Maplewood acknowledges that we as a society and community still have a way to go and that we all have a responsibility to do our part to continue to address the



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continuing challenges facing Black people in America today, including mass incarceration, voter suppression, institutional racism, police violence, and hate crimes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Frank McGehee, Mayor of the Township of Maplewood, on behalf of the Township Committee, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the Township of Maplewood, and in so doing recognize the historical and continued contributions of Black-Americans, that we as a community pause and reflect upon the value of these contributions to us all, and not just this month but every month and that we urge our entire community to dedicate themselves to the principles of justice and equality for all and to be mindful that Diversity Equity & Inclusion and actively being an anti-racist is a year-round priority.

Township Clerk

Mayor