



PROCLAMATION

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month is observed in February of each year; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is designed to recognize and pay tribute to the many contributions of Black Americans to the history, society and culture of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black Americans' contributions to our history began in 1926 with Negro History week, and in each year since 1976, February has been designated and proclaimed Black History Month in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2020 is "African Americans and the Vote", recognizing the struggle for voting rights among both black men and women throughout American history that continues into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War, and marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **February 2020**, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Arlington County and call upon the residents of the County to observe this occasion by recognizing the contributions of Black Americans to our society in general and to Arlington County in particular.

Libby Garvey
Chair