

RESOLUTION NO. 7-26

BY: **MONICA WILSON**

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2026 AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Black History Week was first celebrated during the second week of February in 1926, selected because it coincided with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist/writer Frederick Douglas (February 14); and

WHEREAS, that week would continue to be set aside for the observance until 1969 when black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University proposed to extend Black History Week to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, the first celebration of Black History Month took place in 1970 at Kent State University; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Black History Month, theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations," which also marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, explores how celebrating Black history transforms identity, builds pride, and promotes Black progress in the modern world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Parma recognizes the importance of this annual observance to celebrate the achievements and important role African Americans played in the history of the United States over the last 100 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby supports "Black History Month" designated for the month of February 2026.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to the Black United Students organization at Kent State University.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary to due to the observance taking place this month, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____ PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH THE MAYOR: _____ MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO