



City of Auburn **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Black experience throughout history is an enduring foundation upon which the Black community is built and stands, and the struggle and challenges overcome by African Americans throughout the centuries are inspiring to all Americans and reminders of the principles we share as a society; and

WHEREAS, Black History Week was initiated in February 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2022, "*Black Health and Wellness*," takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community. It explores the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, including a rise in preventive care focusing on one's physical, emotional and mental health; and

WHEREAS, As the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a widespread and chronic disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes for blacks and other minorities. Years of initiatives to help decrease disparities have spotlighted several outcomes, including having more diverse practitioners and representation in all segments of the medical and health programs; and

WHEREAS, as we take this opportunity to study the accomplishments of all African Americans throughout history, we reflect on the role of the Black community in our nation's past, present, and future; to enrich our understanding of the history of Black America is to broaden our understanding of our nation's history, and, during Black History Month, with appreciation for their contributions to all areas of American life and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael D Quill, Mayor, do hereby proclaim February 2022 as the 46th year of

Black History Month

in the City of Auburn and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.



In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Fourth day of February 2022.

Michael D. Quill, Mayor
City of Auburn, New York