



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 2024, "*African Americans and the Arts*" is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression the African-American influence has been paramount. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world; and

WHEREAS, for centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen. Art is a Platform for Social Justice. To quote Paul Robeson, concert artist, actor, athlete and activist "Artists are the gatekeepers of truth. We are civilization's radical voice." African American artists have historically served as change agents through their crafts; 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;

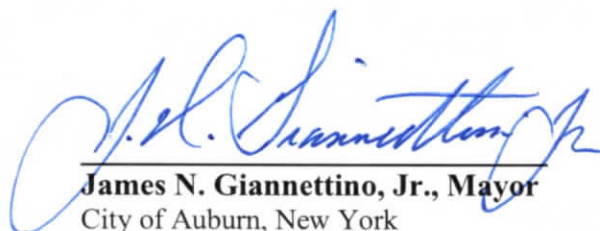
NOW, THEREFORE, I, James N. Giannettino, Jr., Mayor, hereby proclaims February 2024 as the 48th year of

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 First day of February 2024.


James N. Giannettino, Jr., Mayor
City of Auburn, New York