

PROCLAMATION

Black History Month

WHEREAS, Black History Month, celebrated annually during the month of February, was created by Carter G. Woodson in 1926 to highlight the contributions and accomplishments made by the Black community to our Nation, which until then had been omitted; and

WHEREAS, ISRAEL BEAL, born into slavery April 10, 1848, was freed from slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and served as a teamster who traveled with the U.S. Army. He was a Redlands pioneer, property owner, builder, and business owner, also contributing to the construction of early churches in Redlands, the City's reservoir, the original Big Bear Dam, and planting the 160-acre vineyard which now makes up part of the University of Redlands campus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Redlands takes this month to recognize the oldest and first African American Church in the San Bernardino Valley, the Second Baptist Church, founded in 1891 and incorporated in 1899, which has provided in its subsequent 130 years much needed spiritual leadership and resources within the Redlands community regardless of race, ethnicity, or class; and

WHEREAS, Since 2009, the nonprofit organization Music Changing Lives has offered programs at our community center for music and art enrichment programs, paired with academic support to underprivileged and at-risk youth along with community mural projects that have a positive impact on the youth of our community. They continue to serve the city in a way that honors and uplifts the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, we too take this time to recognize the historic accomplishments of the founders and writers for the Colored Citizen, a local monthly periodical founded in July 1905 and published through December 1906, which highlighted the African American community and preserved history at a time when there were no Black public officials, nor other local publications touting the accomplishments of people of color; and

WHEREAS, in our recognition of Black History Month and these great local accomplishments, we reflect on the large strides that we have made to ensure freedom for all people regardless of race, color, or creed in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Redlands hereby declares the month of February 2023 as Black History Month, and hereby encourages its residents to fight racism, intolerance and prejudice through education, kindness, compassion, and understanding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto affix our signatures and Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 7th day of February 2023.




Eddie Tejada, Mayor


Denise Davis, Council Member

Attest:

Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk