



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black history has been celebrated in the United States every February since 1926, beginning with a Negro History Week founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, to enhance knowledge of Black history, and

WHEREAS, African Americans developed our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and actively suppressed, and

WHEREAS, African American citizens have participated and continue to participate in every American effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County's Black community continues to thrive due to the irrefutable contributions of many trailblazing Black Americans, including: Civil Rights leader Dr. Dorothy Cotton, Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley, Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Ruth Carol Taylor - the first Black flight attendant in the United States, and many more phenomenal leaders of the Black community locally, nationally, and globally, and

WHEREAS, the Black History Month 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts," celebrates the unbroken chain of Black art production from antiquity to the present, including Black-led artistic movements such as hip-hop and Afrofuturism, and

WHEREAS, for centuries, Black people have sought ways to nurture and protect Black lives, and for autonomy of their physical and intellectual bodies through armed resistance, voluntary emigration, nonviolence, education, literature, sports, media, and legislation/politics, and

WHEREAS, as societal and political forces escalate to limit access to and exercise of the ballot, eliminate the teaching of Black history, and work to push us back into the 1890's, we can only rely on our capacity to resist. We must mobilize our resources, human and material, and fight for freedom, justice, and equality, self-determination, and social transformation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim the month of February 2024, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, That together with our entire community, we join in celebration and recognition of the Black community, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history, including the civil rights movement and their artistic, cultural and political achievements,

RESOLVED, further, That the Pan-African Flag shall be flown on the County's flagpoles during Black History Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 6th day of February 2024.

Dan Klein, Chairperson
Tompkins County Legislature