



Aspiring. Achieving. Accelerating

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION
February 2024**

WHEREAS, In 1926, the first celebration of “Negro History Week”, was started by the educator and scholar Carter G. Woodson to honor the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The objective was to educate people about Black History, share traditions from Black Culture, honor the contributions and focus positive attention on African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1976 President Gerald Ford extended this celebration to a month, and in 1986 Congress passed Public Law 99-244 to designate February as, “National Black (Afro-American) History Month;” and

WHEREAS, By celebrating Black History Month, we are celebrating the generations of African Americans who have been in this country since the 17th Century, have worked tirelessly to shape and strengthen the fabric of our city, our state, our nation, and have enriched every aspect of our global identity; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month honors and affirms the importance of African American History throughout our nation. By recognizing the significant contributions of the African American community over the years, it is also important to understand the many accomplishments that were made by Black Americans amid undue hardships, slavery, inequality, and extreme forms of institutionalized racism and violence; and

WHEREAS, While Black History Month initially began as Negro History Week, it is vital to continue to learn about and to celebrate the outstanding yet often overlooked contributions and achievements of the strong community of Black people throughout each year; and

WHEREAS 2024’s Black History Month’s theme is “African Americans and the Arts” and is celebrated across the United States every February through recognition of the achievements of African Americans and all people of the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The City of Avondale recognizes the enrichments of African Americans to the West Valley’s rich heritage, seeing success through the many impressions of those who came before us and those who live here now. We celebrate our City’s diversity recognizing we must work to extend the American Dream to Black people in our City as we Make Lives Better for all; and

NOW THEREFORE, Mayor and Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as Black History Month in Avondale and urge all residents to celebrate the rich heritage, immense strength, and substantial contributions of people of African descent in our community today and everyday as we continue our efforts to support the principles of freedom and equality for a more just society.

Mayor Weise

Vice Mayor Pineda

Council Member Conde

Council Member Malone

Council Member Nielson

Council Member Solorio

Council Member White

Attest: City Clerk