

# Avondale

## PROCLAMATION BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**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 former slave, turned abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The objective is to educate people about Black History, share traditions from Black Culture, recognize contributions, celebrate the achievements, and share the interconnected journey of Americans of African in the United States; and

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

**WHEREAS**, The 2026 observance is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month, happening as our nation celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup>, semi-quincentennial anniversary. Which makes this historic time one to reflect on the struggle of enslaved Africans brought to this country, as an agricultural commodity, who were then freed to participate in the cultivation, administration, and progression of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, By Celebrating Black History Month, we are acknowledging the generations of African Americans who have been in this country since the 17th Century, who have worked tirelessly to achieve greatness in agriculture; who have impacted the post-Civil War reconstruction, the Women’s Suffrage Movement, Civil Rights Movement, and the Labor Movement; who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces; who continue to work for equality as we shape and strengthen the fabric of our city, our state, our nation; and who have enriched every aspect of our country’s 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; like the human trafficking of chattel slavery, inequality with the 3/5<sup>th</sup> rule, and extreme forms of institutionalized segregation, white supremacy, and racist violence; and

**WHEREAS**, While Black History Month initially began as Negro History Week, it is vital to continue to learn about people from the African diaspora in our country, descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in our hemisphere, and to celebrate the outstanding, hard-to-overlook contributions and achievements of the Black people throughout each year; 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**, on behalf of the Avondale City Council, the City of Avondale, Arizona, hereby proclaims February 2026 as Black History Month and encourage all residents, organizations, and businesses 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.

Proclaimed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026.



Mayor



Attest:

City Clerk