



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

Black History Month

- WHEREAS,** during Black History Month, we reflect on the sacrifices and celebrate the many achievements and significant contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and
- WHEREAS,** Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson who is known as the "Father of Black History Month" and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and
- WHEREAS,** the 2023 national theme for observance is "Black Resistance" and pays homage to African Americans who have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial massacres, and police killings since arrival upon these shores; and
- WHEREAS,** the theme is timely as we continue to reform the criminal justice system, which has disproportionately affected minority communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and
- WHEREAS,** African Americans locally have and continue to make substantial contributions to industries of all kinds in our region and beyond despite barriers placed before them because of the color of their skin; and
- WHEREAS,** African American leaders and innovators have and continue to leave an indelible imprint on our community by presenting an example of the rewards of hard work and perseverance. We honor and celebrate those contributions - past and present - throughout the month of February; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park recognizes that racial and ethnic diversity enriches our community; and acknowledges the challenges that African Americans face in achieving equity, opportunity, and social mobility; and
- WHEREAS,** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging are priorities and we are committed to working with our community to eradicate racism in all forms to provide an inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, throughout our region, state, and nation. We are determined to work towards eliminating disparities in communities of color, and creating a better future ensuring safety, trust, and belonging for all in our community;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Talisha Searcy, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, do hereby proclaim February 2023, as "Black History Month" in the City of Takoma Park, and encourage all residents this month, and throughout the year to observe, celebrate, and honor Black history and culture in our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all through appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Proclaimed this 1st day of February, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Talisha Searcy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor