



**Proclamation
By the
Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Council
To all whom these letters shall come, Greetings:
Know ye, that the Louisville Metro Council
Recognizes**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, noted historian and educator Carter G. Woodson initiated Black History Week February 12, 1926, which was expanded in 1976 to Black History Month, to celebrate, commemorate, and incorporate the contributions of African Americans into the overall history of America; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have made significant contributions to American history, the most notable being the election of President Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States in 2008 and again in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Louisvillian Muhammad Ali contributed to American History and put Louisville on the map as a great boxer inside the ring and fighter for justice outside the ring; and

WHEREAS, many African American Louisvillians have made notable contributions to local government, including, but not limited to, Eugene Clayton, who in 1945 was elected and became the first African American alderman in the history of Louisville and the first African American elected to a city government in the South since Reconstruction; Louisville Aldermen/Council Members Paul C. Bather (also a Kentucky State House Representative), William Beckett, Denise Bentley, Willie Bright, Alexander C. Brown, Judith Green, E. Porter Hatcher, Jr. (also a Kentucky State House Representative), William J. Hodge, Deonte Hollowell, Dr. Harold R. Howard, W. Claudine Ligon, Milburn Maupin, Reginald K. Meeks (also a Kentucky State House Representative), Lois Walker Morris, George Nichols, III, Louise Elliott "Mattie" Reynolds, Rhonda Richardson, Attica Scott (also a Kentucky State House Representative), Arthur Smith, David Tandy, George Unseld, Claudine L. Washington, Leonard Watkins, and Bill Wilson; and present Council Members Jessica Green, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, David James, Barbara Shanklin, Mary C. Woolridge; and


WHEREAS, many African American Louisvillians have made notable contributions in state leadership rolls, including, but not limited to, Secretary of the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet John Michael Brown; Kentucky State Commissioner and Justice Cabinet Secretary Ishmon F. Burks, Jr.; Kentucky State House Representatives Charles W. Anderson, Jr., Felix S. Anderson, Sr., William Hobbs Childress, Jr., Leonard W. Gray, Sr., Dennis Henderson, Carl R. Hines, Sr., Arthur L. Johnson, Jr., Eleanor Jordan who was also the first African American candidate for national office from Kentucky, Mae Street Kidd, Jess H. Lawrence, Charlotte Smith McGill, Hughes E. McGill, Darryl T. Owens, James E. "J.E." Smith, Amelia Moore Tucker, Jesse P. Warders, and Aubrey Williams; and Kentucky Senators Gerald A. Neal and Georgia D. Powers; and

WHEREAS, many other African American Louisvillians have also made notable contributions to American history including, but not limited to, the following: Tuskegee Airmen Julius W. Calloway and John S. Sloan; Justice William E. McNulty, Jr. and Judges Charles H. Anderson, Denise Clayton, Benjamin Shobe, and Nathaniel R. Harper; Activist Mattie Jones, Louis "Buster" Coleman, Laken Crosby, Jr.; Educators Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, Woodford R. Porter, Sr., Dr. Charles H. Parrish, Lyman T. Johnson, Atwood S. Wilson, and Dr. Joseph H. McMillan; Medical Doctors Roscoe Bryant, William Kean, and Joyce Howell Young; Athletes Leonard Lyles, Wesley Unseld and Coach Ronald L. Abernathy; Musicians and Artists George C. Wolfe, Jewel K. McNary, Robert "Bubba" Thompson, Sam Gilliam, Ed Hamilton, Robert Douglas, Kenneth Clay, and Lionel Hampton; News Artist Mervin Aubespain and Editor/ Publisher Frank L. Stanley, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to recognize, commemorate, and reflect upon the tremendous contributions made by people of African descent to America's diverse heritage, culture, and global history, and to inspire American leadership on all levels to continue efforts to bring about a more informed, peaceful, mutually respectful, and prosperous society for all citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT HEREBY PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE LOUISVILLE METRO AREA AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO BE MINDFUL OF THE MANY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN OUR SOCIETY.

Done, at the Louisville/Metro Council
THIS, THE 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017



Councilwoman Mary C. Woolridge
Louisville Metro Council, District 3