

2023 Black History Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations; and

WHEREAS, across the generations, countless Black Americans have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to shape our nation for the better, and in the face of wounds and obstacles, including enslavement and segregation, perpetuated by the nation itself, Black Americans lead in every part of society today, strengthening and uplifting all of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County supported the 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulder County Community Celebrations 2023 themed, "The Dream...Keep Hope at The Center", organized by the NAACP Boulder County Branch in partnership with the Executive Committee, African American Cultural Events, Boulder County, and held at the Boulder Jewish Community Center on January 15 and Silver Creek High School in Longmont on January 16; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County continues to support the work of the NAACP Boulder County Branch in partnership with the Executive Committee, African American Cultural Events, Boulder County and their 2023 Black History Month Celebration events and education with the theme, "The Evidence of Who We Are"; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County supports the creation and adoption of fully inclusive, anti-racist, and multicultural policies at a state and local level and believes it is the moral responsibility of the county and its employees to interrupt institutional racism which manifests through racist policy, practices, and behaviors both internal and external to the Boulder County organization; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners congratulates Dr. Reiland Rabaka and everyone who worked to establish the University of Colorado Boulder's new Center for African and African American Studies, which celebrates its grand opening on February 1 and whose mission is to research, promote, preserve, interpret, and disseminate knowledge about the histories, cultures, and arts of Africa, African Americans, and the wider world of the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners asks all Boulder County residents to join in carrying forward the work to build a beloved community as described by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives".

Now therefore, the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of Boulder County, do hereby proclaim that the month of February 2023 is recognized as Black History Month in Boulder County and urges all residents to actively raise their own awareness of Black History, encourages everyone to recognize the struggles, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans through local Black History Month events, and to engage in action to create a fully-inclusive, anti-racist Boulder County.

ADOPTED this 31st day of January 2023

Commissioner Claire Levy

Commissioner Marta Loachamin

Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann