



CITY OF SEBASTOPOL PROCLAMATION

Declaring February 2026 as Black History Month in the City of Sebastopol

WHEREAS, February is recognized nationally as Black History Month to honor the resilience, achievements, and enduring contributions of Black Americans to our nation's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Association of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) has designated 2026's theme as "*A Century of Black History Commemorations*," honoring 100 years since Dr. Carter G. Woodson established the first national observance of Black history in 1926; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson, a Harvard trained historian born to formerly enslaved parents who founded ASALH in 1915 to combat historical erasure and ensure inspire future generations through education; and

WHEREAS, Black residents have been part of Sonoma County's story since California's earliest days, including those who arrived during the Gold Rush era and those who built community despite facing housing and employment discrimination in the North Bay; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have shaped every facet of American life, including science, civil rights, arts, labor, and culture, enriching our nation's story despite facing systemic barriers throughout history; and

WHEREAS, Sebastopol continues its commitment to honoring Black history not only in February but throughout the year, and to advancing racial equity in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Sebastopol declares February 2026 as Black History Month and encourages all residents to reflect on the contributions of Black Americans to our shared history, culture and future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Great Seal of the City of Sebastopol this 3rd Day of February 2026.

Jill McLewis, Mayor, City of Sebastopol