

Office of the Mayor
City of Fayetteville
Proclamation



- WHEREAS:** Black History Month is a remembrance of events in the history of African Americans and educating about African-Americans' cultural backgrounds and many notable achievements, and
- WHEREAS:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once proclaimed, *"We are made by history"*, and in this spirit we realize we *are* made by history, and the awareness of this history provides us with an important story in our Nation's historic and cultural fabric, a story that includes resolute courage against formidable odds, and
- WHEREAS:** from the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement to the injustices and horrors of slavery and the Jim Crow era, from inventions and artistic trends to providing a significant contribution to the building of our nation's infrastructure, each moment in black history has shaped the face of modern America, and
- WHEREAS:** the City of Fayetteville thanks Compassion Fayetteville and its coordinating partners for organizing Fayetteville's first city-wide Black History Month. The theme for this month-long celebration is "Honoring the Unique History of African Americans in Fayetteville", and
- WHEREAS:** Fayetteville, like Arkansas, has been and is blessed with individuals who have made their mark nationally and worldwide, but we recognize also that notable marks are made despite whether a name is on a list or in a book. This is particularly important to note with African American history because too much of it has gone unrecognized, uncelebrated, unwritten, and unrecorded – giving rise to the great importance of Black History Month in our City of learning, innovation, and compassion. May we tell and endeavor to continue telling these important stories, and
- WHEREAS:** Fayetteville High School was the first High School in Arkansas and the first in America's Old Confederacy to announce and continuously follow through with its decision to integrate after the *Brown v. The Board of Education* decision. While violence erupted in much of the South over integration, Fayetteville faced the issue and resolved it – not with violence, but with benevolence and commitment to the United States Constitution. Peggy Taylor Lewis and Preston Lackey were the first African American students to graduate from the integrated High School, and the first integrated class of Fayetteville High School graduated on June 1, 1956, and
- WHEREAS:** the City of Fayetteville encourages all in Fayetteville to discover, appreciate, and commemorate the history of African Americans in Fayetteville during, and beyond, the month of February,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2015 as

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in Fayetteville, Arkansas

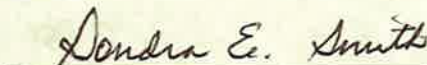
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 27th day of January, 2015.



Mayor



Attest:



City Clerk