

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver
Proclamation No. 12-0134

In recognition of Black History Month 2012

WHEREAS, Black History Month evolved from Negro History Week, first observed in 1926 during the second week of February, to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, and promoted by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, founded in 1915 by historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland; and

WHEREAS, through the years, mayors of various cities began issuing proclamations in honor of Black History Week, and by the late 1960s, with the civil rights movement and growing awareness of black identity, the week expanded into Black History Month, first officially designated by President Ford in 1976 and by each president since; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is intended to honor the history of a people unwillingly transported to the American continent in numbers estimated at over 10 million over three centuries, and to remind us all that their history is our nation's history in that the issue of slavery shaped this nation from its very founding documents to its worst internal struggle, through the adoption of the 13th Amendment abolishing it and the Civil Rights fights in the courts and on the streets; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is also important in that it recognizes a host of black men and women who made their mark in literature, the arts, sports, philosophy, education – names such as Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Dubois, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Jackie Robinson and Barack Obama, as well as thousands of others who served their country as Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen, farmers, maids, factory workers, educators and executives; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2012 is paying tribute to black women and their myriad contributions throughout history and in present times; and

WHEREAS, many exhibits, events and observances are happening around Denver in honor of Black History Month 2012 for everyone's education and enjoyment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Denver City Council recognizes Black History Month and encourages Denver residents to visit Denver Public Library's Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library at 2401 Welton Street in Denver's historically black Five Points neighborhood and take advantage of its rich array of exhibits in honor of Black History Month.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Charleszine "Terry" Nelson, Special Collection and Community Resource Manager, Blair-Caldwell Library African American Research Library.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 21, 2012

PRESIDENT