

Proclamation of Black History Month

WHEREAS, African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms, and police killings since our arrival upon these shores.

WHEREAS, African Americans have had to consistently push the United States to live up to its ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

WHEREAS, Systematic oppression has sought to negate much of the dreams of our griots, like Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, and our freedom fighters, like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Septima Clark, and Fannie Lou Hamer fought to realize.

WHEREAS, African Americans have sought ways to nurture and protect Black lives, and for autonomy of their physical and intellectual bodies through armed resistance, voluntary emigration, nonviolence, education, literature, sports, media, and legislation/politics. Black led institutions and affiliations have lobbied, litigated, legislated, protested, and achieved success.

WHEREAS, In an effort to live, and maintain and protect economic success African Americans have organized/planned violent insurrections against those who enslaved them, such as in Haiti, and armed themselves against murderous white mobs as seen in Memphis, TN (1892), Rosewood, FL (1923), and New Orleans, LA (1900). Additionally, some African Americans thought that the best way to resist was to self-liberate as seen by the actions those who left the plantation system, of Henry Adams and Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, when they led a mass exodus westward in 1879 and Bishop Henry McNeal Turner of the

African Methodist Episcopal Church, who organized emigration to Liberia.

WHEREAS, Education, whether in elementary, secondary, or higher education institutions have been seen as a way for African Americans and communities to resist the narrative that African Americans are intellectually inferior. When Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week (NHW) in 1926, he saw it as a way to provide a space and resources to critically educate students about their history.

WHEREAS, By resisting, African Americans have achieved triumphs, successes, and progress as seen in the end of chattel slavery, dismantling of Jim and Jane Crow segregation in the South, increased political representation at all levels of government, desegregation of educational institutions, the passage of Civil Rights Act of 1964, the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History in DC and increased and diverse representation of Black experiences in media. Black resistance strategies have served as a model for every other social movement in the country, thus, the legacy and importance of these actions cannot be understated.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ron Mozer, Mayor of the City of Monessen do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to be part of "Black History Month" as part of my theme "Equality and Prosperity for all".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand and cause the seal of my office to be affixed, this 23rd day of February in the year of 2023.



*Ron Mozer
Mayor, City of Monessen*

