

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Black History Month 2025

WHEREAS Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville acknowledges the significant contributions and sacrifices made by African Americans in our community and throughout the nation, often in the face of great adversity; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville recognizes that Vinegar Hill, once a thriving Black neighborhood in Charlottesville, was a cultural and economic hub for African American residents, home to Black-owned businesses, churches, and homes that fostered a strong and resilient community; and

WHEREAS in 1965, the Vinegar Hill neighborhood was demolished as part of an urban renewal project, displacing many Black families and business owners, leading to lasting economic and social repercussions; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville acknowledges the impact of past injustices, honors the legacy of Vinegar Hill, and commits to policies and initiatives that promote equity, justice, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS Black History Month serves as an opportunity for residents of Charlottesville to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of African Americans, to educate ourselves about Black history, and to work toward a more just and equitable future;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council hereby proclaims February 2025 as **Black History Month** in the City of Charlottesville and we encourage all residents to participate in educational programs, cultural events, and initiatives that honor and celebrate Black history and contributions.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of February 2025.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk