## **PROCLAMATION**

## CELEBRATING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to commemorate the historic struggles of African Americans to gain freedom and equality; and to recognize the importance of these struggles to our country's history and ideals; and to celebrate the many achievements African Americans have made to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development as a nation; and
- WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment in 1926 of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and
- WHEREAS, in 2024 the national theme for observance is "African Americans Influence on the Arts in the United States". The focus will be on poets, writers, visual artists, and dancers and their contributions over the years; and
- WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the ongoing need to enhance our understanding of black history, to overcome racism, and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and
- WHEREAS, the Township of West Windsor continues to work toward becoming an even more inclusive community in which all citizens-past, present, and future are respected and recognized for their contributions to our community, the County, and the State; and
- WHEREAS the Township of West Windsor is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community, such as our senior center and schools throughout New Jersey and the Nation.
- NOW, THREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Hemant Marathe and the Township Council of the Township of West Windsor hereby proclaims February as Black History Month in perpetuity and encourages all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

In witness whereof, we hereunto set our signatures and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of the Township of West Windsor this 12th day of February, 2024.

Hemant Marathe, Mayor

Sonia Gawas, Council Member

Daniel Weiss, Council Member

Linda Geevers, Council President

Andrea Mandel, Council Vice President

Martin Whitfield, Council Member