



# The City of Minneapolis

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## A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

### **Honoring Black History Month**

**By Reich, B. Johnson, Gordon, Frey, Yang, Warsame, Goodman,  
Glidden, Cano, Bender, Quincy, A. Johnson, and Palmisano**

*Whereas*, since 1926, and the creation of Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the accomplishments of persons of African descent have been recognized each February; and

*Whereas*, the month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to share the accomplishments black Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and

*Whereas*, Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders with special ceremonies and activities; and

*Whereas*, in 2016 to celebrate Black History Month, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights introduced Future History Makers, a profile series featuring emerging and mid-career leaders from the Twin Cities African American community who share the department's ideals of advancing civil rights and removing barriers to equity; and

*Whereas*, the department identified trailblazers in the areas of business, criminal justice, education, economic development, health, philanthropy, housing, and government and defined them as Future History Makers; and

*Whereas*, the department also recognizes the kinship of the work of future history makers to those who are legacy trailblazers; and

*Whereas*, each week throughout Black History Month, we shine the light on dedicated leaders in the Twin Cities region and share the stories of those who are making a huge impact and inspiring future generations as well as those who have come before as Legacy Leaders; and

*Whereas*, to support and foster our own Future History Makers in the City of Minneapolis enterprise, a new employee resource group for those interested in building, recruiting, and supporting black employees, a City of Minneapolis Human Resources pilot program, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network was formed and will have its inaugural kick off on Thursday, February 23, 2017, with a meeting and social networking gathering; and

*Whereas*, affinity groups offer employees the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and increase awareness and sensitivity to differences throughout the organization and help improve workplace culture; and

*Whereas*, the new Minneapolis Black Employee Network will offer black City employees peer support, mentoring, professional development, career counseling, and wellbeing supportive services; and

*Whereas*, the Minneapolis Black Employee Network will offer the City of Minneapolis recommendations on action steps to support, retain, and recruit black leaders to the City's workforce; and

*Whereas*, each year we will continue to highlight dedicated black leaders in the City of Minneapolis and the Twin Cities region; and

**Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis, that we commemorate the achievements of black Americans as Future History Makers and Legacy Leaders and their role in the development and history of the region and the nation, and we join in recognizing the annual celebration of Black History Month and the creation of the Minneapolis Black Employee Network.

Passed, February 10, 2017

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Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved:

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Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest:

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Casey Carl, City Clerk