



Redmond
WASHINGTON

Connected Community

Enhanced Livability

Environmental Sustainability

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, February is nationally recognized as Black History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the history, culture, and enduring legacy of African Americans whose courage, innovation, and leadership have profoundly influenced the development of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the study and public recognition of Black history were advanced by historian Carter G. Woodson, who in 1926 launched *Negro History Week* to ensure that the stories, scholarship, and lived experiences of Black Americans were acknowledged, preserved, and taught as an essential part of our shared national narrative; and

WHEREAS, 50 years later, in 1976, Black History Month was formally recognized at the national level when President Gerald R. Ford called upon Americans to give due attention to the many achievements of Black Americans that had too often been overlooked or excluded from historical record; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Black History Month theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations," reflects on 100 years of organized efforts to uplift Black history, recognize excellence, and expand public understanding of the Black experience through education, culture, advocacy, and community celebration; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have made lasting contributions in every sector of society – including education, labor, science, technology, the arts, public service, business, medicine, and civic leadership—and their ongoing pursuit of equity and justice continues to strengthen communities such as Redmond;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGELA BIRNEY, Mayor of the City of Redmond, Washington, do hereby proclaim **February 2026** as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

and call upon the residents of Redmond to observe this month by learning, reflecting, and engaging in activities that honor Black history, celebrate Black voices, and reaffirm our community's commitment to inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity for all.



Angela Birney, Mayor
February 2026

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