

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1986, the United States Congress and Senate passed Public Law 99-244 designating February as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month"; and

WHEREAS, Called on United States President Ronald Reagan to issue a proclamation stating, "The foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of Black Americans in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion;" and

WHEREAS, Since 1996, United States presidents have issued annually theme-based proclamations for National Black History Month. The theme for 2024 is *African Americans and the Arts* honoring their numerous and significant contributions, including Lorraine Vivian Hansberry; and

WHEREAS, A playwright and writer, Hansberry was the first Black American female author to have a play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, highlighting the lives of Black Americans in Chicago living under racially segregated housing covenants, performed on Broadway; and

WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, an academic who earned a PhD in History from Harvard, sought to heal and unify America by sharing the significant history and contributions of the Black American experience. In 1926 he established Negro History Week in February; and

WHEREAS, To those interested in learning more about the origins of Black History Month and this year's theme, visit The Association for the Study of African American Life and History's website at asalh.org.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGELA BIRNEY, Mayor of the City of Redmond, Washington, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

and encourage everyone to observe this month by acknowledging the history and challenges faced by Black Americans, and paying tribute to this community for its strength, perseverance, character, and contributions, all of which enrich our lives.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Birney".

Angela Birney, Mayor

February 6, 2024