



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 9, 2021

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmembers Terry Taplin, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn

Subject: Proclaiming February Black History Month and Authorizing City Manager to Fly the Black Lives Matter Flag

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution Proclaiming February as Black History Month and Authorizing the City Manager to fly the Black Lives Matter Flag every year at the Civic Center throughout the month of February.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley has a long history of celebrating Black History and being at the forefront of supporting equity and justice for people within the community. February provides an annual opportunity to highlight the achievements and celebrate contributions of African-Americans in the United States and around the world and to recognize that much work remains in creating a just, equal and anti-racist society.

In the summer of 2020, the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery ignited the nation in passionate protest against police brutality and racial injustice. Across the country, community members gathered for weeks and sometimes months to demand change and called out the enduring, systemic racism, white supremacy and accompanying police brutality that have defined the United States for too long. The Berkeley City Council has acted on these calls launching and furthering initiatives across health, transportation, housing and public safety in alignment with the City's strategic goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

In a symbolic extension of these substantive efforts, Berkeley will fly the Black Lives Matter flag during the month of February, publicly affirming its commitment to address institutionalized racism, advance justice and foster equality and justice. There will be a ceremony on February 10<sup>th</sup> to raise the flag.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time to organize and participate in the flag ceremony.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are not direct environmental impacts from adopting this resolution.

CONTACT PERSON

Jesse Arreguín, Mayor, (510) 981-7100

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,### N.S.

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FLY THE BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG AND TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTIONS SHE DEEMS NECESSARY EVERY YEAR ON THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

**WHEREAS** BLACK LIVES MATTER!; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley has a committed history of being at the forefront of supporting equity and justice for people within this community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has celebrated Black History Month for decades, and has including sponsoring the Annual Black History Month Celebration hosted by the Berkeley Junteenth Association; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley condemns the violence that has claimed the lives of so many Black persons in America and joins in mourning the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others; expresses our heartfelt sympathy to their families; and commits to redouble our efforts to address institutionalized racism, advance justice, and foster equality and justice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley hereby declares the month of February as Black History Month and authorizes the City Manager to fly the Black Lives Matter Flag every year at the Civic Center throughout the month of February, and take any other actions deemed necessary.

