



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-07

Black History Month

WHEREAS, Charles County residents of all backgrounds and experiences contribute to our County's rich cultural diversity, storied history and promising future, and it is important for all Charles County residents to recognize the positive contributions to our society made by people of all heritages and races; and

WHEREAS, African Americans play an important role in Charles County and American history, and Charles County has been the home of several historical African American figures and countless other unsung heroes who have contributed greatly to its rich history; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted African American scholar and son of former slaves, initiated Black History Week in 1926, to be recognized the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the Nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became a month-long recognition, and is now celebrated throughout North America; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our County and Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism, recognize the vast achievements of African Americans across many disciplines and in the face of great obstacles, and to continue to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2023 is **Black Resistance**, established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. **Black Resistance** can take many forms, including seeking knowledge about our histories, partaking in the arts, driving political action, challenging racist medical practices, supporting Black authors and entrepreneurs.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND do hereby proclaim February 2023 as **Black History Month** in Charles County, and encourage all residents to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND



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District 1

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Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners