



Proclamation



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, according to Census.Gov (<https://www.census.gov>), Carrboro, North Carolina in 2019 had a population of 21,190, of which 11% were Black; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, Black people have played significant roles in Carrboro's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development, while continuing to work to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

WHEREAS, many Black people have played significant roles in their employment with the Town of Carrboro; in addition to many employees who work with the town, Richard Knight was hired as the town's first and only Black town manager and served from 1976-1980; and

WHEREAS, others who have served in elected office for the town include Robert "Bob" Drakeford, the town's first and only Black mayor who served from 1977-1983; Braxton Foushee, Carrboro's first Black alderman who served from 1969-1981; Braxton was followed by Hilliard Caldwell (1981-1997), Henry "Hank" Anderson III (1993-1998), Joal Hall Broun (1999-2011), Michelle Johnson (2011-2017), and alderman/council member Barbara Foushee (2017-present); and

WHEREAS, the Carrboro Community Park was renamed the Henry Anderson III Park in honor of the late Hank Anderson; Carrboro's Baldwin Park was named for Henry W. Baldwin, an African-American community member and landowner in Carrboro; and Carrboro's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, which opened in 2020, has murals and quotes honoring the life of Dr. King; and

WHEREAS; Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten was born in Carrboro on January 5, 1893; a very talented, renowned, self-taught musician, she was inducted posthumously into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame 2019; the Libba Cotten Bikeway and the yearly Carrboro Freight Train Blues Concert Series are both named for her; and

WHEREAS, Fred Joiner, currently serving as the Poet Laureate for the Town of Carrboro, was selected as an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow in 2019, one of thirteen poets chosen nationwide in recognition of their literary merit, and to support their own civic programs; and

WHEREAS; Carrboro is proud to recognize and honor the history of Black people in Carrboro and throughout the nation, and to remember and celebrate them during Black History Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, in do hereby proclaim February 2021 as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. I encourage all residents in Carrboro to celebrate this important month, and continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.

This the 2nd day of February, 2021.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor