

PROCLAMATION

of
The Town of Portola Valley Recognizing February 2023 as
Black History Month

WHEREAS, in 1970, Black United Students and Black educators at Kent State University, building on work begun in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson to bring attention to the need to acknowledge and accurately represent Black and African American history, founded Black History Month; and beginning in 1976, every United States President has declared the month of February as “Black History Month”; and

WHEREAS, Black and African Americans have made innumerable contributions that have enriched America and indeed the lives of every American; and every American should acknowledge and express thankfulness for these contributions; and Black and African Americans have made and continue to make America a better place and Americans a better people; and

WHEREAS, throughout the arc of history to the present day, Black and African Americans have experienced and endured the inhumanity of injustices and inequities - not just from societal and institutional biases and racism rooted in white supremacy, but also from other Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is a moral imperative that each of us learns about, sheds light upon, and condemns the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black and African Americans continue to experience and endure, and furthermore that each of us takes action to realize true reforms; and

WHEREAS, to be silent in voice and complacent in action is to be complicit in this inhumanity and injustice; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jeff Aalfs, Mayor of the Town of Portola Valley, California, do hereby recognize February 2023 as National Black History Month

AND I CALL UPON EACH ONE OF US to listen to Black voices; to learn about experiences of Black and African Americans throughout history as well as today; to shed light upon and condemn the inhumanity of injustices and inequities that Black and African Americans experience and endure; to take ownership for each of our roles in perpetuating these; to confront and end biases and racism stoked by white supremacy; and to take action to realize true reforms in ourselves, our community, our culture, and our institutions to abolish injustice and inequities that Black and African Americans still experience and endure today.

AND WITH HUMILITY AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, TAKING ACTION FOR TRUE REFORMS, MAY WE JOIN HANDS AS A UNITED AND DIVERSE AMERICA, AND “Lift ev’ry voice and sing, ‘til earth and heaven ring, Ring with harmonies of Liberty” for all.

Black History Month
February 2023



Jeff Aalfs, Mayor
February 8, 2023