



## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WHEREAS**, New Albany is home to a diverse and inclusive community; and

**WHEREAS**, the culture, history, traditions, achievements, and contributions of African Americans are recognized and celebrated in Ohio and throughout the United States in February, and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard scholar, established a week-long observance and celebration of African American history and culture, which was expanded to a month in 1976, to reveal the contributions, achievements, and involvement of African American people in the development of our American democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Black History Month theme is "African Americans and Labor" which focuses on the significant contributions and impact of Black people's work across various industries throughout history, highlighting the intersection of labor with the collective Black experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of February gives us a chance to honor the many heroes who are both known and unknown, and pay tribute to the generations of individuals who struggled with adversity, risked their lives for justice, battled against seemingly insurmountable forces, and advocated for equality then, now, and in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans are engaged throughout our society as our friends and neighbors, scholars, teachers, business people, community leaders, and contributors to our quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, as a city, we can continue to work together to guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals and support local organizations such as SOAR Parents Network, the Juneteenth Focus Group, New Albany High School NAACP Chapter and Black Student Association, and the numerous Black-owned businesses in New Albany.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor of the City of New Albany, Counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, on behalf of council and the residents of New Albany, declare February as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and encourage residents and citizens to learn about and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our community.

**WHEREBY**, I set my hand and seal this 18th day of February, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sloan T. Spalding", is written over a horizontal line.

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor