



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 every February, and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Harvard scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson established an observance and celebration of African American history and culture, which has expanded nationally to highlight and remember the contributions, achievements, and involvement of African American people in the development of our country; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Black History Month theme is “A Century of Black History Commemorations” in honor of Dr. Woodson and highlighting the power of the American spirit as we prepare to celebrate our country’s 250th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the month of February gives us a chance to honor heroes and pay tribute to the generations of individuals who struggled with adversity, risked their lives for justice, battled against oppression and advocated for equality for all; 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 and community, we continue to work together to provide equal opportunity for all individuals and support local organizations that share this goal, 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 17th day of February, 2026.

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

Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor

