

Proclamation

- Whereas,** in 1973, Electra Littlejohn organized Alameda's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on the steps of City Hall. In 1978, Mayor Chuck Corica invited the celebration inside, where it has been held and organized by Reverend Betty Williams annually for the past 41 years; and
- Whereas,** since 2017, a banner celebrating Black History Month has been hung at City Hall and at all Alameda schools with illustrations of local, regional, and national influential African Americans; and
- Whereas,** African American Alamedans are represented in civic, civil, and human rights organizations, are local business owners, City staff, Board and Commission members, and have served as elected members of the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education and the Alameda City Council; and
- Whereas,** African American contributions have been recognized throughout Alameda in the naming of places, including a school, streets, housing developments, sports facilities, and a community center; and
- Whereas,** recently our community led a successful effort to change the name of Haight Elementary School, previously named after a former California Governor known for supporting racist policies. Students now attend Love Elementary School with pride; and
- Whereas,** the Black History Month 2020 theme is "African Americans and the Vote," honoring the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote and the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment giving African American men the right to vote; and
- Whereas,** in 2020 we also celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Mary Sparrow (joining us this evening), whose legacy includes decades of volunteering for the African American community in Alameda and achieving positive results in her quiet, peaceful way; and
- Whereas,** 2020 marks the 43rd year of Black History Month, or National African American History Month, calling on Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, hereby proclaim February 2020 as

Black History Month

in the City of Alameda, and encourage our residents to join me as we celebrate African Americans in our community and in our country who stood up to past wrongs to ensure freedom and justice for all.

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Mayor

