

# Proclamation

## Black History Month February 2026

*WHEREAS, over 400 years ago the first African Americans arrived in the United States, forever changing the course of our country; the legacy of this event affects us all, and understanding the complex history of race in America helps us to come together as Americans; and*

*WHEREAS, the first event was celebrated during a week in February 1926, encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in African-American history, and in 1976 the week-long celebration was extended to the entire month of February; and*

*WHEREAS, Black History Month also creates a specific opportunity for all people in Redwood City to reflect on and celebrate the historic and current accomplishments of African American people, both nationally and locally; and*

*WHEREAS, African-Americans helped develop our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and unrecorded; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City believes every person has the freedom to feel valued and respected, and condemns racism in rhetoric or action; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City aims to advance racial equity through mindful governance practices, reviewing policies to consider their impacts on community members; and*

*WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020 the City Council adopted a resolution declaring that Black Lives Matter, acknowledging the ongoing reality of racial inequity and reaffirming the City's commitment to racial equity; and*

*WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020 the City Council further committed to anti-racist action by adding Equity as a Strategic Plan Guiding Principle, affirming that Redwood City will put equity first and urging a collective restart so that policies serve the entire community; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City remains committed to taking tangible steps to normalize, organize, and operationalize equity principles and tools, with an eye toward impactful and sustainable outcomes that create a more equitable community.*

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, ELMER MARTÍNEZ SABALLOS, MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY, on behalf of the City Council and the people of the City of Redwood City, do hereby proclaim the month of February, in 2026 and each year thereafter, as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Redwood City and encourage all residents to observe this month in honor of the history made by Black Americans and continue our efforts to create a community that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.**

Date: February 9, 2026



Elmer Martínez Saballos, Mayor

Kaia Eakin, Vice Mayor

Isabella Chu, Council Member

Jeff Gee, Council Member

Diane Howard, Council Member

Marcella Padilla, Council Member

Chris Sturken, Council Member