



Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and in 1926 established Negro History Week, which later evolved into the nationally recognized observance of Black History Month in 1976; and*

WHEREAS, *since that time, Black History Month has been observed annually to inspire, inform, and educate our citizens about the history of Black Americans and the lasting contributions they have made to American life, culture, innovation, and civic leadership; and*

WHEREAS, *each year during Black History Month, we rediscover a wealth of history that reflects the perseverance, resilience, and triumph of the human spirit, while honoring those whose stories were too often overlooked or untold; and*

WHEREAS, *this history is not only a vital part of Black History, but an essential part of American history, and we should set aside a special time to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements, heritage, and ongoing impact of African Americans in our state and nation;*

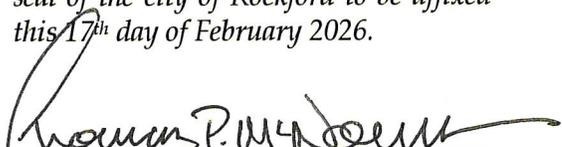
NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS P. MCNAMARA, as Mayor of the City of Rockford do hereby proclaim the month of February 2026 to be:

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in Rockford, and urge all citizens to observe the month of February with appropriate programs and activities that recognize, reflect upon, and honor the many contributions of African Americans, past and present.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Rockford to be affixed this 17th day of February 2026.


MAYOR THOMAS P. MCNAMARA
CITY OF ROCKFORD