Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Black History Month

WHEREAS, Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Congress passed Public Law 99-244 which designated February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month." The law directed the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe February 1986 with the appropriate ceremonies and activities. Black History Month has since been an annual national celebration of achievements by African Americans and their central role in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated February as Black History Month and chosen a specific theme. The theme for Black History Month 2026 is "A Century of Black History Commemorations." This theme highlights that 2026 marks 100 years since the first national observance of Black history; and

WHEREAS, consistent with this theme we recall sculptor Edmonia 'Wildfire" Lewis, Poets like Langston Hughes and Josephine Baker. Painters such as Aaron Douglas a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Musicians ranging from Muddy Waters and BB King to Nina Simone and DJ "Kool Herc". Mathematician like Gladys Mae West and Katherine Johnson. Physicians like James McCune Smith and Daniel Hale Williams. Dancers like Alvin Hailey, movie stars like Sidney Poitier and Denzel Washington who have all been pioneers in their fields, representing the best of black culture and its influence on American and the World.

WHEREAS, the year 2026 provides an opportunity to reflect on the rich history, enduring legacy, and invaluable lessons of African Americans, and to recognize the growth, resilience, success, and diversity of their contributions and achievements that have profoundly shaped our community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunrise, recognizes that the soul of America is what makes us unique among all nations. We are the only country in the world founded on an idea. It is the idea that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated with equal dignity throughout our lives. While we still grapple today with the moral stain and vestiges of slavery, our country's original sin, we have never walked away from the fight to fully realize the promise of America for all Americans. Throughout our history, Black Americans have never given up on the promise of America; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Sunrise recognize the importance of commemorating Black History Month. In doing so, we pay homage to and acknowledge the achievements of African Americans throughout our Nation's history and encourages the continuation of its celebration to raise the awareness of this community's accomplishments for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Michael J. Ryan, Mayor of the City of Sunrise, Florida, together with the City Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of February 2026 as: **Black History Month** in the City of Sunrise and encourage all to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture, and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

Witness My Hand and Official Seal of
The City of Sunrise, Florida

Michael J. Ryan, Mayor