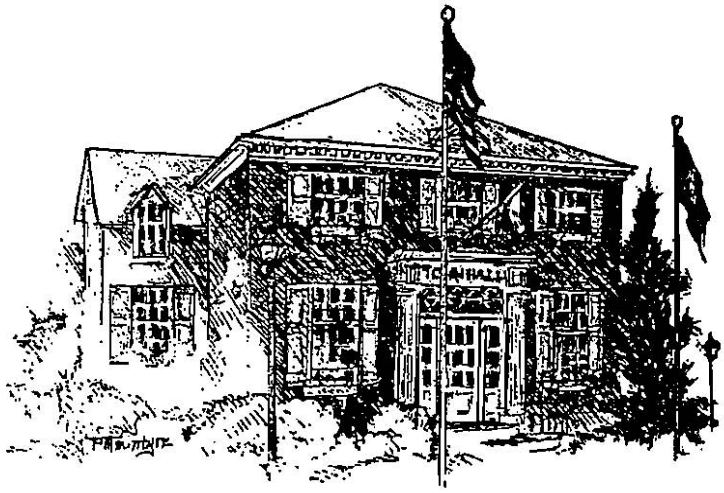

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2026

This year marks one hundred years since historian and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson laid the foundation for **Black History Month**, and the Town of Herndon recognizes this observance to honor the lived and shared experiences of all Black Americans – those whose names are celebrated and those whose legacies remain known only through the progress they made possible. Throughout the month of February, events are planned nationwide honoring the history and impact of Black Americans.

Herndon's own story reflects the impact of African American residents who shaped the Town with resilience, enterprise, and civic spirit. Figures such as Henry Simms, a Black business owner and blacksmith during Herndon's incorporation, embody this legacy. The historic Black neighborhoods of Oak Grove and Cooktown likewise represent communities that contributed to Herndon's growth, cohesion, and character through generations of determination and shared purpose.

Black History Month is more than a commemoration of historic events – it is a reminder that Black history is American history. It invites us to take an unvarnished look at where we have been so we can build a better future, recognizing that all of us have benefitted from the labors of those who came before. Town life is a collaborative work in progress, and the Town of Herndon encourages all residents to honor the stories, achievements, and sacrifices that continue to shape our community.

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims the month of February 2026 as **Black History Month** in the Town of Herndon; encourages all citizens to celebrate Black history and culture – emphasizing the importance of educating others about the contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans; and highlights the resolve of Black Americans, who helped build our nation and furthered the cause of social justice.