



Black History Month Resolution

WHEREAS, the Parkrose Board of Education takes pride in joining Americans throughout the country in recognizing February 2021 as Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes and pays tribute to the contributions that Black and African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of our shared history; and

WHEREAS, many Black and African Americans have long experienced disparities, exclusion, discrimination, and many barriers to being able to cast their vote. Dating back over 100 years Black and African Americans have had to fight and campaign to have voting rights and be recognized as voters. This fight continues today for many Black and African American people from many walks of life; and

WHEREAS, generations of Black and African American individuals, families, and communities, have played a significant role in protesting the urgency for voting to be barrier free, inclusive, and non-discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, Black and African American youth are now the inheritors of a flawed and unjust voting culture that has historically disproportionately oppressed the Black and African American right to have their voice validated, heard, and counted; and

WHEREAS, Black and African American youth are now leading movements to champion the shift in the stifling of the Black and African American vote. Our young voters are motivated to drive out exclusion and discrimination and are not fearful of shedding light on the issue and identifying ways to not only combat, but to win the victory for Black and African American voters; and

WHEREAS, as Black and African Americans are prepared to go to battle for what should be rightfully theirs, this preparedness is a part of our narrative and has cultivated our courage, drive, and resilience in the face of adversity and inequality; and

WHEREAS, to this day millions of Black and African Americans across the country face coordinated efforts to suppress their right to vote, including racist voter ID laws, racial motivated redistricting, voter roll purges, inequitable resources for Black and African American voting precincts, and the countless other efforts to suppress their voice; and

WHEREAS, our diverse culture enriches and broadens the American experience of which Black and African American heritage is an inseparable part as it weaves throughout our country's history, profoundly influencing every aspect of our lives; and

WHEREAS, we commend the many achievements, successes and contributions of Black and African Americans in voters rights movements as there has been a significant rise of Black and African American elected and appointed officials locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, inequality and injustice still linger in our cities, states and country, and it is the responsibility of citizens to advance the American notion of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors proclaims February, 2021 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors strongly encourages all members of our community to join in this observance.

Adopted this 25th day of January, 2021.

Signed:

Sonja McKenzie, Chair, Parkrose School District Board of Directors

Attest:

Michael Lopes Serrao, Superintendent, Parkrose School District