



## Select Board

Town of Stow, 380 Great Road, Stow MA 01775  
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### PROCLAMATION

### Black History Month

February 2023

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Stow strives to be a welcoming community and a good place to live; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Stow recognizes and values diversity of its residents and people everywhere, including the contributions of each and every resident to work towards improving recreation and civic life in our town; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is an annual celebration of Achievements by the Black community and a time for recognizing the central role of Black people in our history; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former enslaved peoples, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by Black peoples in the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America, Canada and Great Britain; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1986, Public Law 99-244 proclaimed that "the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity."

**WHEREAS**, While the observance of Black History Month calls our Town's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals, this year's celebrations and recognition of Black History Month are especially significant as we reflect on the historic challenges facing our community and our Nation at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, Black peoples have played significant roles and made lasting contributions to our Town's history and the history of our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development, while working tirelessly to contribute to every aspect of American society including but not limited to business, education, politics, science, and the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Stow commits to doing everything in their power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding and implement changes to ensure that racism and the unjust treatment of any person is not tolerated in any way or form within the town of Stow; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Select Board does hereby proclaim February, 2023 as

### Black History Month

in the Town of Stow and that all residents be encouraged to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of the African American members of our community as we continue to advance the principles of liberty, equity, and inclusivity for all.

*Signed this day, the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 by*

*Members of the Select Board of Stow, Massachusetts*









