



Dutchess County Executive
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** During Black History Month, we, as a county and nation, celebrate the legacy of Black Americans and the vast contributions they have made in the political, cultural, and social development; and
- WHEREAS,** Black History Month grew out of the 1926 establishment of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson, and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History with the mission of researching, promoting and preserving Black History Month; and
- WHEREAS,** the first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State University in 1970 and during the 1976 Bicentennial celebration President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month; and
- WHEREAS,** Dutchess County is proud to honor the achievements of local Black Americans, including, but not limited to, John Bolding, a freedom seeker from South Carolina, who established a business in Poughkeepsie, and Poughkeepsie High School teamer Lorraine Roberts, who led the Dutchess County Historical Society's Black History Committee; and
- WHEREAS,** The observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to ensuring that our community is inclusive and respectful for all; and
- WHEREAS,** Dutchess County is committed to ensuring that the human rights of every individual are protected and valued.

THEREFORE, I, SUSAN J. SERINO, County Executive of Dutchess County, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as ***Black History Month*** in Dutchess County.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 1st day of February 2024.

Susan J. Serino

SUSAN J. SERINO
Dutchess County Executive