



Dutchess County Executive

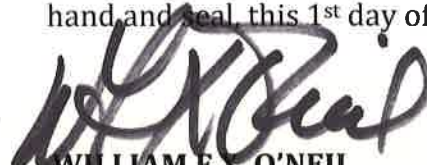
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** During Black History Month, we, as a county and nation, celebrate the significant achievements and contributions made by African-Americans to our cultural, spiritual, economic, and political 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 and focuses the public's attention on the contributions of African-Americans past and present; and
- WHEREAS,** Dutchess County is proud to honor the achievements local African Americans have made, including, but not limited to: Jacob Lyle, who served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War; John Bolding, a freedom seeker from South Carolina, who established a business in Poughkeepsie and was rescued from slave hunters by Poughkeepsie residents; Poughkeepsie High School teacher Lorraine Roberts, who led the Dutchess County Historical Society's Black History Committee; and organizations such as Celebrating the African Spirit; and
- WHEREAS,** The observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to ensuring our community is inclusive and respectful for all, with the human rights of every individual protected and championed - goals for which Dutchess County has long striven.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM F.X. O'NEIL, County Executive of Dutchess County, do hereby proclaim February 2023 as *Black History Month* in Dutchess County.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of February 2023.


WILLIAM F.X. O'NEIL
Dutchess County Executive