



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, every February, people across America acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month and New Yorkers join to honor the history and heritage of our Black communities, recognizing the richness of Black culture that has influenced and shaped our state and nation, while remembering the many challenges overcome by Black communities – and those that still exist; and

Whereas, many heroic individuals from the Black community have made history with their outspoken advocacy against the inequality, injustice, and inhumanity shown towards Black people – including New York residents Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson, Malcolm X, and U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm – as they and other Black leaders have left a lasting mark on our national conscience; and

Whereas, this year's theme of "Black Resistance" honors significant leaders who fought to end the systemic segregation that has hindered social, educational, and economic opportunities for Black people, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination – especially the lack of fundamental civil liberties that all people deserve and have a right to; and

Whereas, while the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution formally abolished enslavement in the United States, other forms of oppression and violence against Black people continued in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and they were denied many of the freedoms and opportunities afforded non-Black persons until the modern Civil Rights era brought changes in laws, policies, and public perception; and

Whereas, at the height of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, we saw Black communities come together in a call for further action on the national level, joined by social justice and activist groups across America, that were galvanized in support of equal rights; in the decades since, millions have marched together and stood together at rallies to reaffirm the rights of all individuals to live in a free and just society – including the right to vote – and their spirit burns brightly today among many who influence and shape every aspect of American civic life by challenging voter laws, conquering social barriers, and pursuing new courses of opportunity and progress; and

Whereas, we value Historically Black Colleges and Universities, research institutes, and cultural resources that advance Black history and heritage as forces of progress and change for new generations, and we are inspired by community-minded Black Americans who are examples of service to us all – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Maya Angelou, U.S. Representative John R. Lewis, and countless others known and unknown; New Yorkers proudly celebrate Black History Month, recognizing that social, educational, economic, healthcare, housing, and political equality and justice for the Black community will enable all of us to thrive together as one state and nation;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2023 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirty-first day of January in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh