

# Proclamation

- Whereas,** this is the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of Black History Month, or National African American History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black Americans to our country and this year's theme is "African Americans in Times of War," honoring Black Americans' military service; and
- Whereas,** in 1973, Elector Littlejohn organized Alameda's first Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day Celebration which was held on the steps of City Hall; and, in 1978, Mayor Chuck Corica invited the MLK Day celebration to be held inside Council Chambers for the first time, where it has been held and organized by Rev. Betty Williams annually for the past 40 years; and
- Whereas,** in 1980, Alameda's first Black History Celebration was kicked off with a citywide barbeque, and presentations were made in the Main Library and schools, including Haight, Lum, Washington, Chipman, Wood, Encinal, Island and St. Joseph's. The Committee's members were: Lelia Green, Joy Johnson, Mr. Ware, Dorietha Wayne, and Rev. Williams; and
- Whereas,** Rev. Williams continued these Black History Celebration for years, with Acting Mayor Al DeWitt's and Lorraine Taylor's assistance. Today, Rev. Williams with Pastor Roxie Parks and Pastor Marjorie Sandford still present the Black History throughout the community, as invited, quoting Rev. Williams, "people need to learn how to get along"; and,
- Whereas,** in 2016, the City, in collaboration with the Alameda Black Achievers Alliance, led by Robbie Wilson, proclaimed June 19<sup>th</sup>, as Juneteenth Day, recognizing and celebrating the country's oldest commemoration of Black and African American freedom and achievement; and
- Whereas,** Black Americans civic, civil and human rights groups in Alameda, including: Alameda Colored Women's Civic Study Club, Alameda Civil Rights Congress, Alameda City NAACP, Alamedans with Hope, Black Student Unions of Alameda and Encinal high schools and the College of Alameda; Buena Vista Community Association, Alameda Race Violence Taskforce, Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality (CARE), Renewed HOPE, and Black Achievers Alliance; and
- Whereas,** in 2017, the City created a banner for Black History Month illustrating the faces of local, regional and national influential Black Americans including Congressman John Lewis, Maya Angelou, Ruby Bridges, former President Barack Obama, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, James Baldwin, and Elector Littlejohn, which is displayed annually at City Hall and Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) schools; and
- Whereas,** some elected and appointed Black American officials in the City, include: C.W. Moore, first Black American Social Service Human Relations Boardmember; Clarence Gilmore, Clayton Guyton and Michael John Torrey, Housing Authority commissioners; Rev. Betty Williams, first Black American Civil Service Boardmember; Berresford Bingham, first Black American AUSD Boardmember; Ardella Dailey, first Black American Superintendent of AUSD and AUSD Boardmember; Al Dewitt, first Black American City Councilmember and Acting Mayor; and, Marie Gilmore, first Black American Mayor; and
- Whereas,** Black American contributions have been recognized through the naming of places in Alameda, including: Don Grant Track & Field and Grant Lane; Wilver "Willie" Stargell Field, Stargell Ave, and Stargell Commons; Elector Littlejohn Park; Albert DeWitt Officers' Club and DeWitt Lane; Ruby Bridges Elementary School; George Herring Tennis Courts; Les White Tennis Courts; Barbara Manning Lane; Carter Gilmore Lane; and Berresford Bingham Lane.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that I, Trish Herrera Spencer, Mayor of the City of Alameda, hereby proclaim February 2018, as

## Black History Month

in the City of Alameda, and encourage our community to observe and celebrate this month with appropriate activities, ceremonies and programs.



Trish Herrera Spencer  
Mayor