



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

MISHA C. PRIDE  
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI  
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY  
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT  
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL  
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

District One  
LINDA C. COHEN

District Two  
RACHAEL COLEMAN

District Three  
MISHA C. PRIDE

District Four  
STEVEN J. RILEY

District Five  
ELYSE C. TIPTON

At Large  
RICHARD T. MATTHEWS

At Large  
NATALIE E. WEST

**WHEREAS**, each year, Black History Month is observed in February; and

**WHEREAS**, the origins of Black History Month date back to 1915 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the organization known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

**WHEREAS**, observing Black History Month in South Portland and across the United States provides opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of Black American's history and acknowledge the centuries of struggles for equality and freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month also celebrates the achievements and contributions that Black Americans have made in shaping our country, society, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, every year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History sets a theme for Black History Month, and the theme for 2024 is, "African Americans and the Arts"; and

**WHEREAS**, this years' Black History Month theme explores the complexity and dynamic of African American families and their stories throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, to participate in observing Black History Month, those interested can visit [www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org) to learn more about the origins of the month, this year's theme, and African American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is celebrated in South Portland Schools with learning opportunities, workshops, performances, presentations, social events, and discussions that honor the culture, perspectives, and contributions of Black Americans throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, South Portland residents can learn during Black History Month and throughout the year from the diverse book and video collections at the South Portland Public Library that include works by Black authors as well as biographies and other stories of Black American leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, during Black History Month and throughout the year, South Portland residents may walk the Freedom Trail in Portland, which marks 13 sites that were important to the Black experience in Maine and the anti-slavery movement nationwide;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of South Portland, Maine does hereby proclaim February 2024 as

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

and encourages the residents of our South Portland community to observe this month by acknowledging the history and challenges faced by Black Americans, and paying tribute to this community for its strength, perseverance, character, and contributions, all of which enrich our lives.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000

Amended and Passed

Date: February 6, 2024