



# Proclamation



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and

**WHEREAS**, according to Census.Gov (<https://www.census.gov>), Carrboro, North Carolina in 2018 had a population of 21,314, of which 11.8% was African-American; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout history, African-Americans have played significant roles in Carrboro’s economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development, while continuing to work tirelessly to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

**WHEREAS**, many African-Americans have played significant roles in their employment with the Town of Carrboro; in addition to many employees who still work with the town, Richard Knight was hired as the town’s first and only black town manager and served from 1976-1980; and

**WHEREAS**, African-Americans who have served in elected office for the town include Robert “Bob” Drakeford, the town’s first and only black mayor who served from 1977-1983; Braxton Foushee, Carrboro’s first black alderman who served from 1969-1981 and who was recognized as a Carrboro Town Treasure in November 2019 by the Chapel Hill Historical Society; Braxton was followed by Hilliard Caldwell (1981-1997), Henry “Hank” Anderson III (1993-1998), Joal Hall Broun (1999-2011), Michelle Johnson (2011-2017), and alderman/council member Barbara Foushee (2017-present); and

**WHEREAS**, the Carrboro Community Park was renamed the Anderson Park in honor of the late Hank Anderson; Carrboro’s Baldwin Park was named for Henry W. Baldwin, an African-American community member and landowner in Carrboro; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, officially opened on January 20 of this year with a grand ribbon cutting, will soon have murals and quotes honoring the life of Dr. King; and

**WHEREAS**; Elizabeth “Libba” Cotten was born in Carrboro on January 5, 1893; she was a very talented, renowned, self-taught musician, who was inducted posthumously into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame this past year in October of 2019; additionally, the Libba Cotten Bikeway and the yearly Carrboro Freight Train Blues Concert Series are both named for her; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town also recognizes the talent of Fred Joiner, currently serving as the Poet Laureate for the Town of Carrboro; Fred was selected as an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow last year, one of thirteen poets chosen nationwide in recognition of their literary merit, and to support their own civic programs; and

**WHEREAS**; Carrboro is proud to recognize and honor the history and contributions of African-Americans in Carrboro and throughout the nation, and has planned various recognitions and events throughout this month to recognize Black History Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina, in recognition of African-Americans past and present in our community, do hereby proclaim February 2020 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. I encourage all residents in our community to celebrate this important observance, and continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.

This the 4th day of February, 2020.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor