



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 DataUSA (<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/carrboro-nc/>), Carrboro, North Carolina in 2016 was home to approximately 1,662 African-American residents, which was 7.96% of Carrboro's total population; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, many 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 the Town of Carrboro; these include the following persons:

WHEREAS, Robert "Bob" Drakeford was elected as the town's first and only black mayor and served from 1997-1983; and Richard Knight was hired as the town's first and only black town manager and served from 1976-1980; and

WHEREAS, Braxton Foushee was elected as Carrboro's first black alderman and served from 1969-1981, and was followed by Hilliard Caldwell (1981-1997), Henry "Hank" Anderson III (1993-1998), Joal Hall Broun (1999-2011), Michelle Johnson (2011-2017) and 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 was named for the well-known civil rights icon and activist; and

WHEREAS; Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten was born in Carrboro on January 5, 1893; she was a very talented, renowned, self-taught musician for whom the Libba Cotten Bikeway in Carrboro is named, the yearly Carrboro Freight Train Blues Concert Series is named for her as well; and

WHEREAS; Carrboro is proud to recognize and honor the history and contributions of African-Americans in Carrboro and throughout the nation.

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 2019 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. I encourage all residents in our community to celebrate this important observance and to continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.

This the 5th day of February, 2019

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor