



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first event recognizing Black History was celebrated during a week in February 1926, encompassing the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans, and

WHEREAS, African Americans helped develop our nation in countless ways, those recognized, unrecognized, and unrecorded, and

WHEREAS, the contributions of African American residents and scientists, inventors, educators, farmers, homemakers, and explorers of earth and sky, have been recognized annually during National African American History Month, and

WHEREAS, African American citizens have participated, and continue to, in every American effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County's African American community continues to thrive due to the irrefutable contributions of many trailblazing Black Americans, including: Civil Rights leader Dr. Dorothy Cotton, Pulitzer Prize winner Alex Haley, Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Ruth Carol Taylor - the first Black flight attendant in the United States, and many more phenomenal leaders of the Black community locally, nationally, and globally, and

WHEREAS, virtually every aspect of our community's life has been influenced by African Americans, whether in arts, medicine, government, labor, business, or volunteerism, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim the month of February 2025, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, That together with our entire community, we join in celebration and recognition of the African American community, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history, including the civil rights movement and their artistic, cultural, and political achievements,

RESOLVED, further, That the Pan-African Flag shall be flown on the County's flagpoles during Black History Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, on behalf of the Tompkins County Legislature, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 4th day of February 2025.

Dan Klein, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature