



## Black History Month February 2021

**Whereas:** The City of Roseville is committed to recognizing and honoring the contributions of all members of our communities; and

**Whereas:** Negro History Week was established in 1926 by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson as a way to neutralize the deliberate distortion of Black History; and

**Whereas:** This movement grew over the years to Black History Month to give an objective and scholarly balance in American and World History; and

**Whereas:** The Month of February was selected as Black History Month because it marks the birth of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, and Abraham Lincoln, leaders whose actions greatly impacted the lives of the American Black population; and

**Whereas:** The contributions African Americans made and continue to make to our nation's economic strength as well as to our history, music, arts, national defense from the Revolutionary War to present-Day military operations, written words and discoveries, and inventions are often overlooked; and

**Whereas:** On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. On August 28, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans of all backgrounds joined the March on Washington which was led by Martin Luther King, Jr., Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), James Framer; Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), John Lewis; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), A. Phillip Randolph; Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Roy Wilkins; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Whitney Young, Jr. (National Urban League) in pursuit of jobs, justice and freedom to the Memorial of Abraham Lincoln, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, in pursuit of freedom and equality for all; and

**Whereas:** Despite all the progress, the legacy of slavery and segregation still persists in our nation in the forms of mass incarceration, the school to prison pipeline, racial profiling, educational inequalities, housing and employment discrimination, racism and bias; and

**Whereas:** In 2021, Black History Month theme centers on "*The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity*" and the rich tapestry of images and complexities for exploring the African American past and present; and

**Whereas:** The City of Roseville invites all members of the Roseville Community to renew their commitment to ensuring racial equality, understanding and justice and to participate in activities designed to advance the cause of freedom and equality for all.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that the City Council hereby declare February 2021 to be Black History Month in the City of Roseville, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, U.S.A.

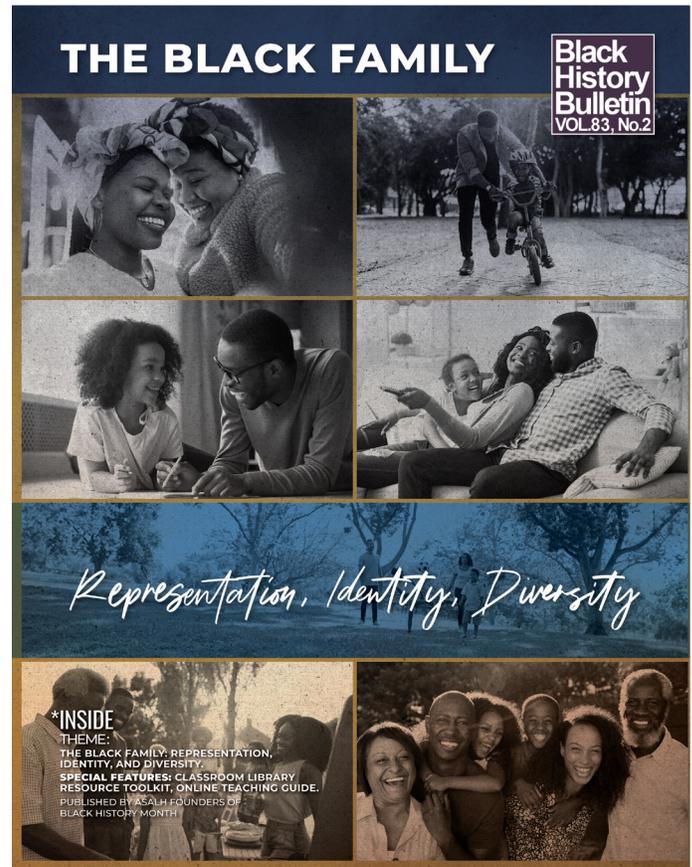
**In Witness whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Roseville be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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Mayor Daniel J. Roe

# 2021 BLACK HISTORY THEME: THE BLACK FAMILY: Representation, Identity, and Diversity

The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the black family at large. While the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY**

THE FOUNDERS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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