

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON,  
BIRCH, CLAMAN, COFFEY, DRUMMOND, FLYNN,  
GUTIERREZ, JOHNSTON, OSSIANDER, SELKREGG, STARR  
AND MAYOR DAN SULLIVAN

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: February 16, 2010

CLERK'S OFFICE  
APPROVED

Date: 2-16-10 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AR NO. 2010-39

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR DAN SULLIVAN  
RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING FEBRUARY 2010 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.**

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Woodson, son of former slaves; a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher and the second black person to receive a degree from Harvard, knew the value of education and the importance of knowing and understanding one's heritage; and

WHEREAS, upon his urgings, the fraternity Omega Psi Phi created Negro History and Literature Week in 1920 and in 1926, Dr. Woodson changed the name to Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, he selected the month of February as a way to honor the birth of two men whose actions drastically altered the future of black Americans- Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. President who issued the Emancipation Proclamation who was born February 12<sup>th</sup> and Frederick Douglass, one of the leading abolitionists born February 14<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASNLH) extended the week to a month-long celebration in 1976 and in 2000 President Clinton proclaimed February as National African American History Month; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played important roles in American history, from making important and famous discoveries and contributions in science, education, law, politics, music, art, sports, and the presidency of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an opportunity for all to reflect on the history, culture, and teachings of African Americans who have contributed to our state, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month reaffirms American's commitment to equal access to economic opportunity, to "color blind" justice, and to educational opportunity for all Americans;

WHEREAS, Black History Month continues to promote, preserve and research black history and culture year-round.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly joins the rest of Americans:

**Section 1:** February 2010 shall be recognized and celebrated in the Municipality of Anchorage as

**"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"**

**Section 2:** All Anchorage residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in our local Black History Month celebration, as we join in the spirit of love of country, respect for democratic principles, and commitment to solidarity and equal opportunity for all Americans.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010.

  
Chair

ATTEST:  
  
Municipal Clerk