

CLERK'S OFFICE
APPROVED

Date: _____

1-31-12

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON,
BIRCH, DRUMMOND, FLYNN, HALL, HONEMAN,
JOHNSTON, OSSIANDER, STARR, TRAINI, TROMBLEY AND
MAYOR SULLIVAN

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: January 31, 2012

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2012-29**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING AND
CELEBRATING FEBRUARY 2012 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.**

WHEREAS, Black History Month was begun as Negro History Week by historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of African-American people throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson initially chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two great Americans who each played a prominent role in shaping black history: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, the month of February has much more to show for its significance in black American history, including:

- **February 23, 1868** W.E.B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born;
- **February 3, 1870** The 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote;
- **February 25, 1870** The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901, took his oath of office;
- **February 12, 1909** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City;
- **February 1, 1960** In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C. college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter;
- **February 21, 1965** Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims; and

WHEREAS, black history is an important part of American history and as a result of the continued observance of Black History Month and the promotion of black history awareness, thousands of students at the elementary, high school and university levels are now taught black history during the month of February; and

WHEREAS, the annual celebration of Alaska Civil Rights Month coordinated through the University of Alaska Anchorage Campus Diversity and Compliance will include a variety of events and activities with a Black History Month Kick-Off beginning February 1, 2012; and

1 WHEREAS, sponsored by Wells Fargo, the Anchorage Museum invites residents to
2 *Black History Family Day*, on February 12, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to learn about
3 expressions of love in African culture through such activities as card-making, quilting and
4 beading using traditional African designs and to enjoy a gospel performance by The Greater
5 Friendship Baptist Church Choir; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly joins in reflecting upon the
8 contributions of African Americans to our state, nation, and world including those in American
9 history who have made important discoveries and contributions to science, education, law,
10 politics, music, art, sports, and the presidency of the United States of America;
11

12 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Anchorage Assembly that February
13 2012 shall be recognized and celebrated in the Municipality of Anchorage as
14

15 ***"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"***
16

17 Anchorage residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in local Black History Month
18 events in the spirit of love of country, respect for democratic principles, and commitment to
19 solidarity and equal opportunity for all Americans.
20

21 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 31st day of
22 January, 2012.
23

24
25 Debbie Ossander
26 Chair
27

28
29 ATTEST:
30

31
32 Bonnie S. Jensen
33 Municipal Clerk
34