

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church wishes to honor the impact Black Americans have made on our City and our Nation, and recommit to reaching for a day when no person is judged by anything but the content of their character; and
- WHEREAS, observance of Black History Month allows us to reflect on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of Black Americans, as intended by the creator of the celebration, Black historian Carter G. Woodson; and
- WHEREAS, this year's theme, "African Americans and the Arts," highlights the impact made by Black Americans in music, visual arts, performing arts, literature, cultural expression, and other arts that make up an important part of American culture and history today; and
- WHEREAS, in recognition of this theme, it is important to remember the Tinner family's skilled masonry which adorned many historic structures in town, whether in facade or foundation, and has long put Falls Church on the map as a key architectural hub of our region; and
- WHEREAS, today we emulate the Tinner craft in public art such as the Tinner Hill Arch, exemplifying the political, social, and historical meaning of what the Tinner family has given to this community, not only as craftsmen, but as civil rights advocates, mobilizing forces, and key figures whose legacy continues to shape our future; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church takes great pride in the tradition of literary accomplishment within the Black community, from the long line of writers in the Henderson family to burgeoning authors like Tanya Gaskins Hardy, seeking to preserve their family genealogy and promote community history; and
- WHEREAS, the City is home to the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, an organization that has utilized the arts to preserve and promote early civil rights history in the community by organizing cultural music festivals, sponsoring murals and public art installations, and helping compile language to preserve our history in monuments throughout the city; and
- WHEREAS, new perspectives and untold stories in our City's history are encouraged to be shared and celebrated, such as Constance B. Foote's skill in landscape painting, which is said to capture scenes of the City long before its incorporation, and represents African American artistry in the region dating back to the 1800s; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church wishes to continue discovering, uplifting, and honoring Black history within our region, and seeks to move toward a year-round acknowledgment and appreciation of the contributions of people of color within the community;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Letty Hardi, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Falls Church and call on all of our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 22nd day of January, 2024.





Letty Hardi, Mayor