



VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated every February throughout this country in recognition of the many achievements and contributions made by Black peoples to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, this observance affords a special opportunity for us all to become more knowledgeable about the central roles that people of African descent have played in American history and to honor the many Black leaders who have contributed to the progress of our communities, states, and nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, Father Flanagan, having been ostracized by the Omaha community for refusing to separate the black and white children in his care, founded the Village of Boys Town outside of Omaha's city limits as a direct result of bigotry and racism; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Boys Town acknowledges and rejects the long history of institutional and structural racism toward African Americans in the United States, particularly racism in education, policing and the justice system which so negatively impacts Black American youth, and calls our attention to the continued need to confront racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Boys Town commits to doing everything in its power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding of the harm racism causes its victims and its perpetrators and implement changes to ensure that racism and the unjust treatment of any person is not tolerated in any way or form within the Village; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all residents and employees of the Village to remember the contributions and legacy of those who helped build our nation, fought against prejudice to secure lives of dignity and opportunity for all of our citizens and advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Boys Town recognizes the significant contributions and huge advances Black Americans have made to this country and the world in such areas as education, medicine, science, literature, politics and business. We see the greatness of America in those who have risen above injustice and enriched our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED by Dana Washington, on behalf of the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, that February is

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

In the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, we encourage citizens to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness of Black History and invite further inquiry into this area of study.

Duly adopted this 6th day of February 2024.


Dana Washington
Village of Boys