

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260079)

## RESOLUTION

Declaring February 2026 as “Black History Month” in the City of Philadelphia and recognizing the 100th anniversary of its observance.

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, born December 19th, 1875, is nationally known as the founder of “Negro History Week” a precursor for what would become modern-day Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia celebrated its first “Negro Achievement Week” in 1928 at the Germantown YMCA, featuring W.E.B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, and James Weldon Johnson, a week aimed to educate Americans and remind them of the countless injustices Black people endured; and

WHEREAS, Since then, states across the country began to adopt similar celebrations, dedicating this time of the year to educate Americans on Black history, and to take time to reflect on its impact on American culture; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, President Gerald Ford issued a Presidential Proclamation on the importance of Black History Month to all Americans, setting the precedent for future Presidents to acknowledge the contributions Black Americans make to this country; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Black History Month affirms the City’s commitment to acknowledging historical truths, elevating diverse voices, and promoting understanding, respect, and unity among all who live and work in the community; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia’s contribution to Black history can be seen through the legacy of prominent African American leaders born here or who came to prominence here like Cecil B. Moore, Richard Allen, Marian Anderson, and Sadie T.M. Alexander; and

WHEREAS, The City acts as a historical marker both in our country’s founding and Black history, acting as a pivotal city in the nation’s abolitionist movement through the creation of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society; and

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260079 continued*

WHEREAS, As we approach the 100th anniversary of Black History Month's observance, and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, our City celebrates the advancements made and reaffirms the work that must continue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby declares February 2026 as "Black History Month" in the City of Philadelphia and recognizes the 100th anniversary of its observance.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260079 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the fifth day of February, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Phillips for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Lozada, Young, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, Squilla and Ahmad