

PROCLAMATION

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations; and

WHEREAS, across the generations, countless Black Americans have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to shape our nation for the better, and in the face of wounds and obstacles, including enslavement and segregation, perpetuated by the nation itself, Black Americans lead in every part of society today, strengthening and uplifting all of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, America is a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities; all part of the "Land of the Free", Black History Month fosters cultural awareness and understanding, while encouraging education about contributions made by Americans of color; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month is a positive way of recognizing the culture and history of African Americans as vital to the core beliefs and values of our society; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Borough Council and myself, we ask all Borough residents to join in carrying forward the work to build a beloved community as described by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Portman, Mayor of the Borough of Red Bank, do hereby proclaim and observe

FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

and encourage the local citizenry to actively raise their own awareness of Black History, to recognize the struggles, achievements, and contributions of Black Americans through local Black History Month events.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of January 2024.



William Portman, Mayor.