



# Allegheny County Council

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## Legislation Text

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Proclamation declaring the month of February as ***Black History Month*** in Allegheny County.

***WHEREAS***, during the month of February, we pay tribute to the countless people who stood up and sat in to help right the wrongs of our past and extend the promise of the American dream to all. We honor the contributions of African Americans since the formation of our country, and we stand steadfast to reaching a day when all individuals are judged on nothing but the content of their character; and

***WHEREAS***, the celebration of ***Black History Month*** began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. In 1976, it became a month-long celebration in the month of February, which was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln ; and

***WHEREAS***, today, African American high school graduation and college enrollment rates are at an all-time high, and the African American unemployment rate is the lowest recorded in history. However, challenges still continue and obstacles still stand in the way of our country becoming what our Founding Fathers envisioned; and

***WHEREAS***, Allegheny County recognizes the champions of justice - along the Underground Railroad, aboard a bus in Alabama, a sit down at a “whites only” lunch counter in North Carolina, and all across the country - many of which gave the ultimate sacrifice so that one day each person will know the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** , that I, Allegheny County Council Member DeWitt Walton, do hereby proclaim the month of February as ***Black History Month*** in Allegheny County.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF*** , I have hereunto caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.