

Proclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, in 1926, Black History Month began as **Negro History Week**, created by **Carter G. Woodson**, a Harvard-trained historian and pioneering advocate for the study of Black history; and

WHEREAS, during the nation's bicentennial in 1976, President **Gerald R. Ford** expanded the observance to a month-long celebration, encouraging Americans to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Black History Month 2026, "**A Century of Black History Commemorations**," marks the 100th anniversary of the first Negro History Week and highlights the profound achievement represented by a century of dedicated historical recognition; and

WHEREAS, this theme also honors how Carter G. Woodson's original vision has grown into a sustained, scholarly, and nationwide movement to study, teach, and disseminate Black history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Racine recognizes and celebrates the many contributions of Black residents who have enriched our community through their leadership, service, creativity, and cultural influence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of the City of Racine, do hereby proclaim **February 2026** as **Black History Month** in the City of Racine and encourage all community members to reflect on and celebrate the significant achievements and enduring legacy of Black Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

Accomplished at the City Hall
this 3rd day of February 2026.

Mayor