

Proclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

Whereas, the City of Racine takes pride in recognizing February 2024 as Black History Month and honoring the many notable contributions that people of African descent have made to our community; and

Whereas, we celebrate this year's theme of Black History Month 2024 "African Americans and the Arts," shining a light on visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression that the African American influence has been paramount; and

Whereas, in the 1920s and 30s the rise of the Black Renaissance and New Negro Movement brought the Black Arts to an international stage. Members of the armed forces and many artists shared Black culture and Black American aesthetics with international audiences, and Black culture began its ascent to becoming a dominant cultural movement to the world; and

Whereas: despite these accomplishments, systemic racism persists in the United States, generating continued calls for lasting institutional and societal change so desperately needed in our country; and

Whereas: today and every day, we celebrate African Americans and the Arts, and encourage all people to recognize and confront systemic racism in our neighborhoods and the wider community by standing in the gap at every opportunity, bridging barriers with fearlessness and determination to fight against racism and bigotry and improve representation of Black people, not only in the arts but all faces of our society.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Cory Mason, Mayor of Racine, hereby proclaim February 2024

Black History Month

and call upon the people of Racine to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities and reflections and to continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, equitable and prosperous for all.

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

**Accomplished at the City Hall
this 5th day of February 2024.**

Mayor