



**CITY OF PHILOMATH
RESOLUTION 24-02**

**PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2024 TO BE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF PHILOMATH**

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WHEREAS, we honor Black History by acknowledging past injustices while seeking a more inclusive, equitable, and just path forward; and,

WHEREAS, the first of Oregon’s exclusion laws, adopted in 1844, mandated that Black Oregonians would be publicly whipped —every six months— until they departed; and,

WHEREAS, the Oregon constitution of 1857 prohibited Black Oregonians from owning real estate, making contracts, voting, or using the legal system; and,

WHEREAS, the federal Donation Land Act of 1850 granted free land in Oregon exclusively to white settlers, creating a white landowning class that continues to hold great privilege and power in Oregon to this day; and,

WHEREAS, these and other racist laws and policies sent messages that Black Oregonians were not welcome; and,

WHEREAS, this foundation in racist policies continues to have implications for Black people who visit or reside in the state of Oregon; and,

WHEREAS, many Black people have made Oregon and the City of Philomath their home and have made significant contributions to this state and our community, including the donation of lands for Mount Union Cemetery by Mr. Reuben Shipley in 1861; and,

WHEREAS, Black people are valued and vital members of the Philomath community; and,

WHEREAS, the Philomath City Council is committed to creating a community where all who come here can feel safe and welcome; and,

WHEREAS, the Philomath City Council is committed to moving forward towards dismantling and transforming unjust and racist systems where they persist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the City Council and Inclusivity Committee of the City of Philomath, Oregon hereby proclaim the month of February to be Black History Month in the City of Philomath; and,

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we reaffirm that racial discrimination, hatred, and white
2 supremacy have no place in the City of Philomath or our government; and,

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we call on the people of our community to join us in learning
5 about the history of Black people in Oregon and in Philomath, and in combating racism
6 wherever it is found.

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8 PASSED by the City Council this 12th day of February 2024.

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10 APPROVED by the Mayor this 12th day of February 2024.

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12 SIGNED:
13 Chas Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:
Ruth Post, MMC, City Recorder

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