



PROCLAMATION

Declaring February 2022 as Black History Month in Beaufort

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 national theme for the observance is “Black Health and Wellness;” and

WHEREAS, the theme takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a widespread disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes for blacks and other minorities, and

WHEREAS, for African-Americans, the root of the problem goes deep, and back centuries. Beginning with slavery a lack of economic opportunity, often put medical care out of reach for many African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month calls our attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Beaufort continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens-past, present, and future-are represented and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to our community, the state, the country and the world; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Beaufort is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in the community, throughout our state and nation; and,

WHEREAS, the the Beaufort Middle Passage Project Committee recently dedicated a Memorial at Topsail Park remembering our ancestors who first arrived in Beaufort as part of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial highlights the history of the African American community in Beaufort; and



WHEREAS, over the centuries, these men and women, and their descendants made possible the agricultural and maritime commercial development of the region; and

WHEREAS, the descendants of these enslaved people have continued to contribute to the Town's success, culture and community in countless ways, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition of African Americans – past and present – in our community, I Sharon Harker, Mayor of the Town of Beaufort, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2022 to be Black History Month.

I encourage all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture, and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all. I also encourage all of our citizens to visit Topsail Park to learn more about the history of this documented Middle Passage arrival site in Beaufort.

Duly adopted this 20th day of January 2022.

Sharon Harker
Mayor