



Co-Sponsors:  
Councilman Joseph Bangura &  
Councilman Joshua Mertz

**RESOLUTION**  
**2024-002**

**A Resolution to Recognize Black History Month**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month originated in 1915, when the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), was created.

**WHEREAS**, the founder of ASALH, author Dr. Woodson, initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926 to honor key figures in the history of Black Americans, notably, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1976, Dr. Woodson expanded the week-long celebration to a month-long observance known as Black History month also known as African American History month. President Ford and Presidents following him issued nationwide messages encouraging everyone to honor Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244, which designated February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month", recognizing the 60<sup>th</sup> "salute to Black History" In the same year, President Reagan issued a proclamation for "National Black (Afro-American) History Month" proclaiming that:

"the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity." And that the month is time "to celebrate the many achievements of African Americans in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion."

**WHEREAS**, From 1996, to present day, Presidents, Congress, and the Senate have all passed resolutions and proclamations commemorating Black History month and the contributions of Black citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden issued "A Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2024", noting that "the vibrancy of Black history and culture has enriched every aspect of American life."; and


**WHEREAS**, the history of Black Americans is prominent in the Town of Townsend as the Town was originally known as Charley Town, after African American landowner Charles Lloyd and was inhabited by a community of free African Americans, including Samuel and John Townsend who supported economic development in the Town by building the railroad and establishing the Town as a major shipping point for agricultural products.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Townsend recognizes the month of February as National Black History month and encourages all people of the Town of Townsend to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Americans

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Townsend to be affixed this 7th day of February 2024.

Passed and Approved This 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

**TOWN OF TOWNSEND**

  
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Scott Lobdell, Mayor

Vote of Council	Yea	Na	Abs
Mayor Lobdell	x		
CM J. Mertz	X		
CM J. Bangura	X		
CM M. Chapman	X		
CM M. Suhr	x		

**ATTEST:**

  
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Mariaelena Rivera, Town Clerk