



A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA In Recognition of Black History Month

Whereas: Each year during *Black History Month*, the City of Smyrna explores the history and culture of African Americans, discovering stories of triumph of the human spirit; and

Whereas: Black History Month grew out of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's promotion of Negro History Week, in 1926; and the tradition was expanded fifty years later to become Black History Month; and

Whereas: The 2021 theme for Black History Month is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity;" and this theme offers a rich tapestry of images and stories for exploring African American history as well as present day lives; and

Whereas: 2021 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alex Haley whose 1976 novel is credited with the modern popularity of genealogy and family history research by Americans of all backgrounds; and

Whereas: The Mt. Zion First Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in Smyrna, founded in 1877; and Mt. Zion continues to serve the spiritual lives of Smyrna residents; and

Whereas: Smyrna Museum, city staff and community volunteers have worked to honor and elucidate the life stories of individuals and families who call the Mt. Zion Cemetery their final resting place by restoring the cemetery grounds and documenting residents; and

Whereas: The City of Smyrna continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens are respected and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to our community, the state, the country, and the world; Now

Therefore: I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2021, to be *Black History Month*.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this _____ 1st day of February _____ in the year of Our Lord _____ 2021 .



Mayor

Derek Norton