



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 bravery and triumph; and

Whereas: Black History Month for 2017 focuses on the crucial role of education in African American history; and

Whereas: Smyrna celebrates and commemorates the efforts of African American individuals and groups to create institutions and conditions that help their communities not just to progress, but to thrive; and

Whereas: Among the numerous African American milestones and achievements we should honor are as follows:

- The Atlanta University Center (AUC) which includes Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and the Morehouse School of Medicine is the largest concentration of historically African American colleges in America;
- The National Association for the Achievement of Colored People won a landmark victory in January of 1961 when U.S. District Court Judge William Boote ordered the admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter to the University of Georgia;
- On Wednesday, August 30, 1961, nine African American students – Thomas Welch, Madelyn Nix, Willie Jean Black, Donita Gaines, Arthur Simmons, Lawrence Jefferson, Mary James McMullen, Martha Ann Holmes and Rosalyn Walton – integrated four Atlanta public high schools; and

Whereas: These poignant historical events, exemplary leaders, and steps towards societal change are imperative for the greater understanding of national and world history; Now

Therefore: I, A. Max Bacon, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2017, to be *Black History Month*.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 6th day of February in the year of Our Lord 2017.

Mayor

A. Max Bacon