

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, in 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Rev. Jesse E. Moorland co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History with a goal to bring awareness to the largely ignored, yet crucial role, African-Americans played in history; the son of former slaves and the second black person to receive a degree from Harvard University, Woodson believed in the importance of preserving one's heritage and, upon his urgings, the fraternity Omega Psi Phi created Negro History and Literature Week in 1920; in 1926, the name was changed to Negro History Week; and

**WHEREAS**, now a month-long recognition, it is used as a time to honor and celebrate the culture, heritage, and history of African-Americans in the United States; the year Black History Month was adopted, President Gerald Ford urged all Americans to, "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;" and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is an area rich with African-American history, from the Underground Railroad to the jazz era to sports figures; we have been the home to a great number of prominent African-Americans who shaped our county and our region through their accomplishments, and continue to do so today; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is proud to recognize the history, accomplishments, and promising future of African-Americans in our community and to set aside the month of February for this important time of appreciation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim February 2014 as "Black History Month" in Allegheny County.

**FURTHERMORE**, I do hereby urge all residents to honor the history and successes of African-Americans in our County and the United States throughout the month of February.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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