

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, Black History Month is observed annually across the United States in February; it serves as a celebration of African-American achievements as well as a time to recognize the crucial role they have played in U.S. history and to pay tribute to the generations of black Americans who struggled through adversity to achieve full citizenship in our society; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) sponsored a national Negro History Week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; by the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, the weeklong celebration evolved into a monthlong one on many college campuses, and in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month; and*

***WHEREAS**, this year's theme, "Black Migrations," emphasizes the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities; those migrations resulted in the emergence of black industrial workers in places like the Pittsburgh region, a growing number and variety of urban churches, new music forms such as ragtime, blues, and jazz, and the blossoming of African-American visual and literary artists; and*

***WHEREAS**, Allegheny County has a rich African-American history; when the Pennsylvania General Assembly was petitioned in 1788 to form the county, four of the signatories were free black men, and western Pennsylvania later was a major thoroughfare for slaves seeking freedom through the Underground Railroad; we have, and continue to be, home to African-American leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, and more who have shaped our country and made this area a vibrant place to live, work, and play; and*

***WHEREAS**, we are immensely proud of that history and our diversity as well as thankful for the countless contributions of African-Americans in Allegheny County and throughout this nation; this month, and throughout the year, we urge our residents to celebrate that heritage and continue to fight for equality and opportunity for all.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim February 2019 as "Black History Month" in Allegheny County.*

***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, 2019.*

*Rich Fitzgerald*

RICH FITZGERALD