



WHEREAS, February is *Black History Month* and is recognized throughout the United States as an opportunity to celebrate the historical and present achievements and contributions made by African-Americans to the economic, cultural and political development of our great Country, the State of North Carolina and our local communities; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month's early origins began in February 1926, when "Negro History Week" was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard scholar and a son of former slaves. Dr. Woodson launched an initiative to encourage the study of black history and the African-American experience in the United States. He chose February because it marked the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the American abolitionist Frederick Douglass; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson's legacy influenced the eventual shift from "Negro History Week" to a month-long celebration later to be established in the mid 1970's and celebrated thereafter as "Black History Month"; and,

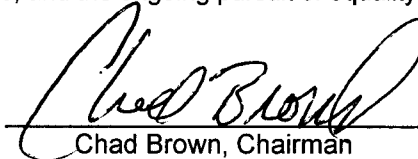
WHEREAS, the national theme for Black History Month 2017 is "*The Crisis in Black Education*" focusing on the crucial role of education in the history of African-Americans. Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future; and,

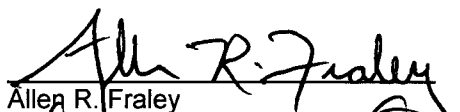
WHEREAS, this year marks the 53rd anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, which was first proposed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and eventually signed into law during the height of the American Civil Rights Movement on July 2, 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The legislation prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin and paved the way for future anti-discrimination legislation.

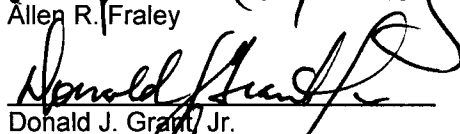
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in commemoration of this nationwide celebration, hereby proclaims February 2017 as

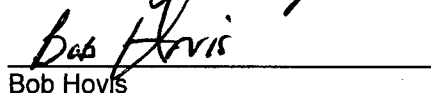
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in recognition of the many contributions of African-Americans to Gaston County, North Carolina and the Nation at large, and the ongoing pursuit of equality and human rights for all citizens.

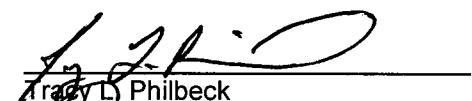

Chad Brown, Chairman

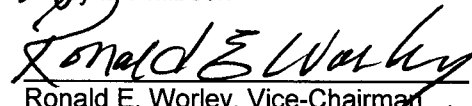

Allen R. Fraley


Donald J. Grant, Jr.


Bob Hovis


Tom Keigher


Tracy L. Philbeck


Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Board of Commissioners Board Action

File #: 16-043

Commissioner Keigher - BOC - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Month of February 2017as **Black History Month** in Gaston County

STAFF CONTACT

Donna Buff, Clerk to the Board - 704.866.3196

BACKGROUND

ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	Brown	Fraleley	Grant	Hovis	Keigher	Phillbeck	Worley	Vote
2017-001	01/24/2017	TK	RW	A	AB	AB	A	A	A	A	U

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