

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM
City of Fernandina Beach



SUBJECT: **Proclamation**
African American History Month

ITEM TYPE: Ordinance Resolution Other
 Proclamation Presentation

REQUESTED ACTION: Presentation

SYNOPSIS: This Proclamation is to recognize February 2017 as "African American History Month." Mr. Stanley Lofton will be present to accept the Proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

2016/2017 CITY COMMISSION GOALS:
(As approved by Resolution 2016-51)

<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Alachua Street
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Field Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Density	<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity
<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Improvements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Departmental
<input type="checkbox"/> Consideration	

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS: N/A

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION(S): N/A

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	Submitted by: Caroline Best <i>CBest</i> City Clerk	Date: 1/20/17
CONTROLLER	Approved as to Budget Compliance	Date:
CITY ATTORNEY	Approved as to Form and Legality	Date:
CITY MANAGER	Approved Agenda Item for 2/21/17 <i>DLM</i>	Date: 1/20/17

COMMISSION ACTION: Approved As Recommended Disapproved
 Approved With Modification Postponed to Time Certain
 Other Tabled

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, initiated “Negro History Week” in 1926, which grew into “Black History Month” during the 1970’s which grew later into “African American History Month”; and

WHEREAS, the initial primary emphasis of “Negro History Week” was placed on encouraging the coordinated teaching of the history of African Americans in the nation's public schools. The first “Negro History Week” was met with a lukewarm response, gaining the cooperation of a handful of Departments of Education in the States of North Carolina, Delaware, West Virginia as well as the city school administrations of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Despite a far from universal acceptance, the event was regarded by Dr. Woodson as, "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken by the Association"; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the launch of “Negro History Week,” Dr. Woodson contended that the teaching of African American history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society; he wrote, “If you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race”; and

WHEREAS, today, “African American History Month” is annually and nationally designated to recognize, honor and record the historical contributions and achievements made by Americans of African descent in the Armed Forces, Architecture, Arts, Business, Civil Rights, Economics, Education, Entertainment, Exploration, History, Law, Literature, Medicine, Music, Politics, Science and Sports; and

WHEREAS, the Fernandina Beach City Commission recognizes that education and diversity contribute positively to the development of society and is a matter of pride and celebration. The City of Fernandina Beach continues to build an inclusive community that lives up to the American ideal of educational, social, and economic opportunity for all its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robin C. Lentz, Mayor of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, together with the members of the City of Fernandina Beach City Commission, do hereby endorse and proclaim the month of February 2017 as:

“AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH”

and urge all citizens to recognize and honor the significant role that African Americans played in shaping our Country’s diverse history and remarkable culture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Robin C. Lentz, hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of February, 2017.

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH

ROBIN C. LENTZ
Mayor - Commissioner