



PROCLAMATION

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
FEBRUARY 2026

***WHEREAS**, February is nationally recognized as Black History Month, a time to honor the history, legacy, and contributions of African Americans and people of African descent to the strength and character of our nation and local communities; and*

***WHEREAS**, the 2026 national theme for Black History Month, “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” marks the 100-year legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s establishment of Negro History Week through the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), a milestone in promoting the study and public recognition of African American history; and*

***WHEREAS**, Dr. Woodson’s work laid the foundation for broadening public understanding that Black history is American history and that the stories, struggles, and achievements of African Americans must be preserved, shared, and celebrated; and*

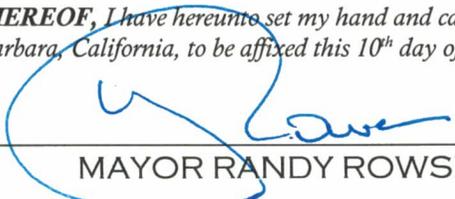
***WHEREAS**, local organizations play a vital role in sustaining Black history, culture, and civic engagement, including the Santa Barbara Black Culture House, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committees of Santa Barbara and Lompoc, Juneteenth Santa Barbara, Healing Justice Santa Barbara, Gateway Educational Services, Santa Barbara branch of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Santa Barbara City College Umoja Village, UCSB Office of Black Student Development, and UCSB MultiCultural Center; and*

***WHEREAS**, Black History Month is not only an opportunity to recognize the unique struggles of Black Americans, it also celebrates the accomplishments, integrity, talents, leadership, determination, and progress of the Black community while honoring its resilience and commitment to creating new opportunities for future generations;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, RANDY ROWSE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, do hereby proclaim **February 2026** as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Santa Barbara and encourage community members to engage in activities and discussions to further their understanding of, and appreciation for, Black history.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Santa Barbara, California, to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.*



  
MAYOR RANDY ROWSE