



- Proclamation -
Black History Month
February 2026

WHEREAS, during National Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month began when Harvard-educated historian and journalist Carter G. Woodson wanted to raise awareness of African Americans' contributions to civilization and initiated and announced Negro History Week in 1926; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 national theme for the observance of Black History Month is "A Century of Black History Month Commemorations; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the diversity of members of the Black diaspora in Roeland Park and our nation, who may identify as African, African American, Afro-Latino, Afro-Caribbean, or Black;

WHEREAS, Black History Month brings to our attention that we and our nation must continue to address racial injustice, advocate for anti-racism in practice and policy, and fully support a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the City formed the Racial Equity Ad Hoc Committee (now called the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee) in 2020 to work toward building a better City for all residents, particularly residents of color, and in September 2024, Roeland Park added protected hairstyles to its Non-Discrimination Ordinance; Furthermore, in 2020, the City of Roeland Park outlawed racial covenants, and in 2024, partially thanks to the advocacy of Roeland Park, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly signed an amendment allowing property owners to officially remove racial covenants from their property deeds; and

WHEREAS, society should pursue greater knowledge and understanding of the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans to this great nation and community through involvement with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Advocacy and Awareness Group of Johnson County,



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Roeland Park, this 2nd day of February 2026.



Michael Poppa
MAYOR

WHEREAS, Roeland Parkers should also learn more about the history and accomplishments of Black communities in the Kansas City community by visiting the Black Archives of Mid-America, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the African American Heritage Trail of Kansas City, the Quindaro Ruins Townsite, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and many other outstanding organizations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, one of the Council's stated Goals is to advance diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as communication and engagement with the community by expanding opportunities to inform and engage residents in an open and participatory manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Michael Poppa, do hereby proclaim February as Black History Month in the City of Roeland Park, Kansas and urge all community members to honor this month and consider the following actions in order to commit to learning more about the contributions of African Americans to our nation and community and create an inclusive world we can be proud of and celebrate.