

WHEREAS, the history and impact of those of African ancestry in what is now known as Santa Clara County is long and illustrious, and includes the founding of the first African American high school in 1861, establishment of First African-Methodist Episcopal Church in 1864 (one of the oldest such churches in California) and Antioch Baptist Church in 1893; and the honor of Lucy Turner as the first African American to attend and graduate in 1907 from San Jose Teachers' College (now San Jose State University); and

WHEREAS, since its initiation by Carter G. Woodson, we mark National African American History Month to take note of those who have worked so diligently to build community, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), (celebrating this month its 100 years of service), the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators, the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley Inc., the Santa Clara County Black Kitchen Cabinet, and Community Arts & History Support; and

WHEREAS, the historical record documents the presence and contributions of those of African descent in our region from its earliest beginnings, starting with the 1774-1775 Juan Bautista De Anza's mission building party, and an estimated one quarter *mulatto* population in 1777; African Americans participated in the county's civic life, including the vote in 1870, and the elections of Jim Williams in 1893 as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Santa Clara Volunteer Fire Department, and John Brown, elected the first Secretary of the Building Trades Union after his arrival in California in 1889; the NAACP received its charter in Santa Clara County in 1942 and continues to build up community; and

WHEREAS, Sunnyhills, Milpitas made history in the 1950s, by becoming the first planned integrated community in the U.S., giving wings to many who were pioneers in their own profession, including the first black mayor (Ben Gross) of an integrated community west of the Mississippi, the first county African American Library Branch Manager (Irene Jefferson), and the first African American public high school principal (Charles Gary); and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, *The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas*, is a chance to examine the evolution of our county as well as our country, and call upon everyone to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby proclaim the Month of February as

African-American History Month

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Twenty Fourth Day of February, Two Thousand Nine by unanimous vote

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One

Liz Kniss, President
Board of Supervisors

George Shirakawa
Supervisor, District Two

Dave Cortese
Supervisor, District Three

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District Four

Attest: Maria Marinos
Clerk, Board of Supervisors