

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



## PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, the national theme for this year's observance is "African Americans and the Arts," which explores the paramount influence of African Americans in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary arts and other forms of cultural expression; and

WHEREAS, African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory, and to empower others, and many have played significant roles in Pennsylvania's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, Black Pennsylvanians like August Wilson and William Whipper have paved the way, portraying the story of the African-American community in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and founding The National Reformer, the first Black newspaper in the state, and Judith Jamison, one of the most prominent figures in modern dance; and

WHEREAS, rapper Meek Mill has been a strong advocate for criminal justice reform, and Marian Anderson, an acclaimed singer who succeeded despite racial prejudice, became an inspiration for America's civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, there have been so many other Black Pennsylvanians who have made notable contributions to our Commonwealth and will continue to do so in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, no matter your race, religion, or background, you have a place in Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our state and throughout the nation.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim February 2024 to be

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in recognition of African Americans past and present in our Commonwealth. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to celebrate this important observance and to honor the influential work and creative accomplishments of the Black community.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this eighth day of January two thousand twenty-four, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro