



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 18-2046, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides an opportunity for the residents of Cook County to recognize the culture, history and talents of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling it a moment for the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Since then, the month of February has been recognized by every President of the United States as Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 Black History Month theme is "African Americans in Times of War," we honor the African American men and women who have fought and laid down their lives for their country; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been many African American military units that have contributed to our nation's history included but not limited to the Civil War's Buffalo Soldiers and World War II's Tuskegee Airmen; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and honors the roles that black Americans have played in warfare, from the American Revolution to today; and

**WHEREAS**, all residents of Cook County can draw strength and inspiration from the unwavering and steadfast spirit displayed by African Americans in their fight against slavery, segregation, economic oppression and injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have made countless economic, social, cultural and political contributions throughout Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, we must always pay tribute to all the heroes of African-American history, and it is important that the people of Cook County observe Black History Month with the highest level of respect and regard; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners honor the numerous trailblazers of Black History, and recognize the many extraordinary accomplishments African Americans have made to the United States of America, the State of Illinois, and to Cook County.