DEWITT TOWN BOARD

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

Motion by Councilor Alex, Seconded by Councilor Dooling.

WHEREAS, Black History month is celebrated every February as tribute to the achievements of African Americans who have shared American history from the documented date of 1619 to the very election of the first Black President and Vice President of the United States of America in 2008 and 2020 respectively, and beyond; and

WHEREAS we honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History for first establishing "Negro History Week," a week was chosen in February of 1926 to celebrate Black History as it acknowledged the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and of Frederick Douglas on February 20th, both of whom were recognized as champions of freedom and equality of all men; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960's America experienced the Civil Rights Movement and prominent civil rights activists supported the evolution of the week into an entire month, and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is now celebrated in the United States for an entire month since 1976 during the Administration of President Gerald Ford, and is promoted yearly by a theme, which for 2024 is, "African Americans and The Arts", and

WHEREAS, despite the African slave trade that created an institution of slavery in this nation, African Americans have nonetheless continued to persevere and move forward in society, fighting for their freedom and equality and for the freedom of All Americans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have played a pivotal role in the still developing history and shaping of America and yes, here in the Town of DeWitt, New York in 2023 election of Town Board Member, Bishop Dr. H. Bernard Alex, as the first African American Town Board Member since the inception of the Town of DeWitt; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have been pivotal in the creation of a massive number of inventions and recognized for achievements in education, social services, public safety, health, all branches of the armed forces of the United States, business, fine arts, entertainment, science, politics, law, engineering, technology, politics, local, state, national and international government; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have continually enriched and contributed to our society through their longstanding commitment to resilience, justice, equality, civil rights and economic growth and social equality for all;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of DeWitt recognizes the month of February as Black History Month and will continue to affirm the opportunity for all residents within the Town of DeWitt of African American descent and or heritage to enjoy a full and vibrant life, filled liberty while in the daily pursuit of happiness; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Town of DeWitt will continue to be a place where all people can be assured that their heritage, and or cultural identity will be respected and celebrated. The Town of DeWitt affirms that “We Are Better Together!”; and,

Be it further RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed and displayed at Town Hall, on the Town website, newsletter and otherwise publicized during February 2024.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the DeWitt Town Council at its meeting on February 8th, 2024.

Adopted 7 Ayes