

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 2026
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, Black History Month, observed annually in February, is a time set aside to honor the rich heritage, indelible contributions, and enduring legacy of African Americans whose courage, creativity, and perseverance have helped shape the moral, cultural, and civic foundation of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month finds its roots in 1926, when scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week to ensure that the achievements and experiences of African Americans would be recognized, studied, and preserved as an essential part of our shared national story; and

WHEREAS, Seminole County, Florida, is deeply enriched by a proud and resilient African American history—one marked by faith, scholarship, enterprise, and community-building—that continues to influence and strengthen the County to this day; and

WHEREAS, following the Civil War and during an era of profound challenge and transformation, African American pioneers established thriving communities within Seminole County, including the historic neighborhoods of Georgetown and Goldsboro, which stood as beacons of self-determination, mutual support, and hope; and

WHEREAS, the Georgetown community, founded in the 1870s, emerged as a self-sustaining settlement with its own schools, churches, and businesses, nurturing generations of families and fostering a spirit of unity and progress that endures as a cornerstone of Sanford's history; and

WHEREAS, the town of Goldsboro, incorporated in 1891 and recognized as one of the oldest African American-founded communities in the nation, reflects the determination and vision of its residents, who built institutions of commerce, worship, and civic life in the face of segregation and inequality; and

WHEREAS, African American educators and leaders such as Joseph N. Crooms and Wealthy Crooms championed the transformative power of education by establishing Hopper Academy and later Crooms Academy, providing generations of students with opportunity, dignity, and the tools to pursue excellence, and leaving a lasting legacy of academic achievement in Seminole County; and

WHEREAS, the enduring presence of historic churches, schools, cultural institutions, and families throughout Seminole County stands as a living testament to the faith, resilience, and contributions of African Americans whose stories continue to inspire progress, understanding, and unity across our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, do hereby proclaim February, 2026 as Black History Month in Seminole County, Florida.

ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2026

**ANDRIA HERR, CHAIRMAN
SEMINOLE COUNTY, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**