

# Black History Month Proclamation Texts

Proposed text by *Bridges Project* and *Liberation Ocala African American Council*

## PROCLAMATION

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, Marion County was a major slave holding county in Florida with over 60% of the total county population being mostly slaves in 1860, and having a majority population of black citizens into the 20<sup>th</sup> century;

**WHEREAS**, Marion County has had a difficult history in race relations, plagued by at least 27 lynchings, a place of Ku Klux Klan activity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where racial segregation was the law and desegregation required the threat of a court order;

**WHEREAS**, Marion County has regularly esteemed its contribution to the Confederacy and the valor of its citizens who fought in the war, recognizing this as an indisputable and important part of its history and heritage;

**WHEREAS**, Marion County must also recognize the unique and often painful history of the black community over the years, not simply the history of the white community;

**WHEREAS**, the community has often failed to esteem the many contributions of black people to the history, culture, economy, and development of the county for over 175 years,

**WHEREAS**, every day and every month is a celebration of the history of white people, and that the important role of the black community in our shared history often remains hidden, ignored, or unknown, within Marion County;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that the month of February, 2017 be known as

**“Marion County Black History Month”**

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

# **PROCLAMATION**

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month dates back to 1926 and observes African-American achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month celebrates the achievements and contributions of African-Americans in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month's intent is not only to increase the knowledge of black history in our community, but also to spread the issue to American society as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, all members of the nation are affected by black history because it is a part of American history, which should be celebrated by everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month has become a symbolic time period in which the appreciation and celebration of African-Americans begins every year and continues all year; and

**WHEREAS**, various celebrations will be held in Marion County in honor of Black History Month;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that the month of **February, 2017** be known as

### **“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”**

In Marion County and the Board further calls upon the people of Marion County to recognize this special observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this **21<sup>st</sup>** day of **February, 2017**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**