



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

# Proclamation

## PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 2026 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month honors the countless contributions that African Americans have made to the United States and deepens our collective understanding of our Nation’s history; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life sought to illuminate the achievements and experiences of African Americans—stories that had long been excluded from mainstream historical narratives—thereby establishing the study of Black history as an essential academic discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, President Gerald Ford proclaimed Black History Month a national observance, urging the Nation “to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

**WHEREAS**, each February, our Nation reflects on the injustices endured and the struggles overcome by African Americans, recognizing both the progress achieved and the work that remains to ensure equality under the law and in lived experience; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that people of color across the United States continue to face systemic inequities, discrimination, and barriers to opportunity, and we reaffirm our responsibility to confront these realities with honesty, urgency, and sustained action; and

**WHEREAS**, in Arapahoe County, we value inclusivity and remain committed to deepening our efforts in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, strengthening our understanding of the experiences of the more than 72,000 African American residents who enrich our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Arapahoe County engages with our community to understand diverse cultural perspectives and strives to ensure a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment that reflects the full diversity of our residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims February 2026 as Black History Month and encourages all residents to honor the legacy, resilience, and ongoing contributions of African Americans in our County and across the Nation.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey  
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker  
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields