

**Health Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
Resolution No. 22-04**

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated in the United States from February 1st through March 1<sup>st</sup> each year, providing an opportunity to highlight unique contributions of Black/African American individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures. These events spread across cities and college campus in the decades that followed; and

Whereas, Gerald Ford was the first United States President to officially recognize Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history;” and

WHEREAS, Since 1976, every U.S. President has recognized February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme; and

WHEREAS, The 2022 Black History Month theme is “Black Health and Wellness,” exploring the legacies of Black/African American scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, in addition to the many other healing modalities and practitioners utilized by members of Black African American communities; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Commission approved the Health Equity Resolution, “Declaring Anti-Black Racism a Human Rights and Public Health Crisis in San Francisco on July 21, 2020. The resolution acknowledges the impact of racial discrimination and the many health disparities, including higher rates of COVID-19, faced by Black African Americans in the United States and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) developed its Racial Equity Action Plan to address health disparities and combat racism throughout the city’s diverse communities and within the DPH, through activities impacting staff; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission monitors the implementation of the DPH Racial Action Plan through quarterly updates provided by the Director of the DPH Office of Health Equity; and

WHEREAS, The DPH has implemented innovative programs to address health disparities in Black/African American residents such as the Black African American Health Initiative, San Francisco Collective Impact for Healthy Births, the SISTA Leadership for African American Youth, physical and behavioral health services offered at Maxine Hall Health Center, Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic, and Southeast Health Center; and the Community Health Ambassadors and wellness services at the HOPE SF sites, along with supporting COVID-19 prevention activities in the Black African American communities in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The DPH funds community-based programs directly impacting Black/African American communities such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Black Brother Esteem Project, Rafiki Coalition, Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation, San Francisco Food Insecurity Task Force, Children's Oral Health Initiative, "The Open Truth" campaign to reduce sugary drink consumption, "Truth or Nah" cannabis education campaign, the "Ask About PrEP," HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis campaign, among many other effective activities, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes and honors the month of February as Black History Month; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Health Commission fully supports the DPH commitment to continued partnership with Black/African American San Franciscans and the organizations that serve them; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Health Commission celebrates the incredible impact of Black/African American leaders and staff in every aspect of the DPH and all the services it provides.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted the foregoing resolution at its February 1, 2022 meeting.



Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.  
Health Commission Secretary