



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Proclamation in Recognition of**  
**Black History Month**  
**and the Transformative Contributions of the**  
**North Carolina Black Alliance**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time to honor the enduring contributions, leadership, and resilience of Black people and institutions whose work has shaped Wake County, North Carolina, and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Black Alliance (NCBA), celebrating 25 years of service, has demonstrated sustained leadership in uplifting, resourcing, and advocating for Black communities in Wake County and across the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Wake County—situated on the ancestral lands of the Tuscarora and Siouan peoples and shaped by historical systems that included enslavement and plantation economies—has long benefited from the stewardship, labor, and civic leadership of Black residents committed to preserving land, environment, and community well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, despite progress and growth, Black families and communities in Wake County continue to be disproportionately impacted by environmental and infrastructure challenges, including water pollution from stormwater runoff and sewage spills, air quality concerns such as smog and particulate pollution, land-use impacts associated with tree canopy loss from development, exposure to toxic contamination in specific areas, and quality-of-life concerns related to landfill operations; and

**WHEREAS**, data from census sources, historical land-use patterns, and community-based evidence indicate that these environmental burdens fall unevenly on Black and Brown residents; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing environmental injustice is essential to Wake County's vision to "provide excellent public service through collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions that prioritize the well-being of our community," and aligns with the County's core values of accountability, equity, and nurturing health and wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, Wake County advances this work through the efforts of departments and programs including Environmental Services, Water Quality and Stormwater Management, Solid Waste Management, Planning, Development & Inspections, and public health initiatives that seek to protect natural resources, manage growth responsibly, and improve community health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Black Alliance has long centered environmental justice as a core priority and, in conjunction with its silver anniversary, convenes the Environmental Justice and Healthcare Summit, *Grounded in Justice, Rooted in Wellness*, to foster collaboration, resilience, and community-driven solutions at the intersection of environmental health and equity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize Black History Month and honor the North Carolina Black Alliance for its 25 years of service, leadership, and advocacy on behalf of Black communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that this proclamation is accepted on behalf of the North Carolina Black Alliance by its leadership, including Brad Thompson, former Raleigh Mayor Pro Tem and founding member of the organization.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Wake County Board of Commissioners has caused this proclamation to be issued this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2026.

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Don Mial, Chair  
Wake County Board of Commissioners