



**Proclamation
In Honor of Black History Month
February 2018**

WHEREAS, African Americans have played and continue to play significant roles in the history and leadership of Wake County's economic, cultural, spiritual, social, health, educational, and political development while working tirelessly to maintain and honor their own culture and heritage; and,

WHEREAS, Wake County is home to two Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which includes Shaw University, founded in 1865, and Saint Augustine's University, founded in 1867. Both have historically provided invaluable education and career opportunities to African Americans, and now have a diverse, combined enrollment of over 4,200 students from across the United States and over 22 foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the rich history of African Americans who helped to build all our communities through leadership and involvement; advanced the cause of civil rights; and strengthened families and communities; and,

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, all are encouraged to reflect on the past successes and challenges of African Americans, and to look to the future to build upon this heritage and continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equity, respect, and justice; and,

WHEREAS, Wake County continues to have African Americans making history for our County, including our current Wake County Board of Commissioner Chairwoman Jessica Holmes who is the fourth and youngest African American woman to wield the gavel; current Wake County Board of Commissioner Chairman James West, also a past Chair of the Board; Wake County School Board Chairwoman Monika Johnson-Hostler and many other elected officials and government leaders,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims **February 2018** as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Wake County and encourages all residents to join in honoring and celebrating the history and contributions of African Americans.

ADOPTED this 5th day of February 2018.

Jessica N. Holmes, Chair