City of Oakland Park
State of Florida

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout our history, Black Americans have never relinquished faith in the promise of America. Unbowed by hatred and undaunted through centuries of struggle against slavery, segregation, and injustice, Black Americans have held a mirror up to our nation—challenging us to confront hard truths and urging us to live up to our founding ideals; and

WHEREAS, Black History Week was established in 1926 during the second week of February by historian, writer, and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson and others. In 1976, Black History Week was expanded to Black History Month to recognize the African American experience and to honor the rich cultural legacy of African Americans who have endured, shaped, challenged, and ultimately strengthened the economic, cultural, spiritual, and political fabric of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland Park is celebrating Black History Month with *Soul Fest*, a free, family-friendly event honoring Soul culture through food, drink, music, and dance, featuring live performances of Funk, Motown, and Soul music by The Jam Band and DJ Chris at Jaco Pastorius Park on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland Park is approaching its Centennial Year in 2029 and is planning the creation of a new history book commemorating the community—particularly residents within the City's Black communities whose contributions have not been previously recognized.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the Charter hereby authorizes Mayor Steven R. Arnst to proclaim February 2026 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Oakland Park, and encourages all residents to observe this month by acknowledging the history and challenges faced by Black Americans and by honoring their strength, perseverance, character, and invaluable contributions, all of which continue to enrich our community and our nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of February 2026.

By:_____
STEVEN R. ARNST, MAYOR

ATTEST:_____
RENEE M. SHROUT, CITY CLERK