

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY, 2015, AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY
OF NORMAN.

- § 1. WHEREAS, Black History Week was first observed for the purpose of revealing and honoring the contributions, achievements, and involvement of African American people in the development of American democracy; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, this year's national theme "A Century of Black Life, History and Culture" honors the contributions of African American women and men to the arts, literature, sports, and pop culture; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, Clara Luper was a civic leader, teacher, and pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement who challenged segregation in Oklahoma, and her daughter, Marilyn Luper-Hildreth, continues that work today; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, Norman's vibrant culture has benefited greatly from the contributions of many African Americans, a few of them being: Prentice Gautt, OU's first African American football player; Teresa Turner, one of OU's first scholarship African American female basketball players, community leader, and long-time Human Rights Commissioner; Don and Etta Johnson, the first African American students to integrate Norman High School; Thomas Carey, musician and professor of music who, with his wife, created the Cimarron Opera Company; Derrick Minter, internationally recognized performer and professor of modern dance; Melvin B. Tolson, Jr., professor of French who, with George Henderson, established what is now the Henderson-Tolson Cultural Center; Norman attorney and former OU Board of Regents Chair Melvin Hall; and Barbara Henderson, civic leader and organizer, civil rights supporter, member of numerous boards, and the first Chairperson of the Norman Human Rights Commission; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, Black History Month encourages unity and promotes the ideals of mutual respect and equal opportunity for all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR PRO TEM OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 6. Do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2015, as Black History Month in the City of Norman and invite all citizens to join me in celebrating the diversity and character of our community.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th day of February, 2015.

Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

City Clerk

