

# Proclamation

## *Celebrating Black History Month 2016*

**WHEREAS:** African Americans have played central roles in some of the most triumphant and courageous moments in the history of our state and nation and during the month of February we recognize, celebrate and honor their achievements; and

**WHEREAS:** For generations, African Americans have strengthened our society by urging reforms, overcoming obstacles and breaking down barriers, reflecting a proud legacy of courage and dedication; and

**WHEREAS:** We can learn valuable lessons of inspiration and find models of success in the lives and accomplishments of such notable African American Georgians as civil rights heroes Martin Luther King, Jr. and Congressman John Lewis; the first black cadet to graduate from West Point, Henry O. Flipper; international statesman and two-term Mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young; home run king and businessman Hank Aaron; musician, Ray Charles; Austin Dabney, a Georgia slave who earned freedom in exchange for his service in the Revolutionary War; and physician, educator and Cabinet member Dr. Louis Sullivan, among many others; and

**WHEREAS:** We remember and honor, too, the contributions of the everyday African American heroes to the success and prosperity of our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS:** As we pay tribute to African American history, with the celebration of Black History Month, we also recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in our society. As a state and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it, and;

**WHEREAS:** By promoting diversity, understanding, and opportunity, we will strengthen our state and continue our efforts to build a society where every person, of every race, can realize the promise of America; now

**THEREFORE:** The City of Griffin Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim February 2016 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Griffin and call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all of the people of Griffin, Georgia to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight and honor the many contributions that African Americans have made to our state and nation.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Griffin to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.



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Dick Morrow, Chairman

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager