

February 7th, 2019



For Immediate Release

Equal Rights Commission Celebrating Black History Month

The Equal Rights Commission (ERC) joins the Milwaukee community in celebrating Black History Month, and salutes the countless number of African Americans who have fought for equality, inclusivity, and making diversity an American way of life.

We encourage residents to take part in the 28 Day Black History campaign that profiles Milwaukee's own Black History heroes on the City of Milwaukee website (<https://city.milwaukee.gov/>) and City Channel (Milwaukee's government access cable channel). Residents can also attend the public celebration of the campaign and Black History Month on February 25, 2019 at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. (begins at Noon on the first floor Rotunda). We applaud Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton, Alderwoman Milele Coggs and other African American Council members for spearheading these efforts.

As we reflect on Milwaukee's rich African American history, we should be proud of the significant strides we have made in tearing down barriers to justice and equality since Dr. Carter G. Woodson proposed commemorating Black History 92 years ago. Today, African Americans are leaders in the arts, sciences, business world, and every other sector. It would be impossible to imagine a Milwaukee and nation without the remarkable contributions of African Americans.

Despite the progress we have made, our work is incomplete. The reality is that African Americans and other minorities remain underrepresented in proportion to their numbers, and more important, with respect to their potential contributions to society. This is especially disheartening in light of the fact that U. S. Census Bureau data shows that African Americans and other people of color comprise the majority population in Milwaukee. We, as a city and nation, must right this wrong.

Like Dr. Woodson, we believe that if people from different backgrounds could learn to see our similarities and appreciate our differences, we could end the fear that is at the heart of racial discrimination. This month of February – and every day – we challenge Milwaukeeans to embrace African American history and to do more to foster and promote diversity in our workplaces, neighborhoods, places of worship, and in our homes.

The Equal Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting equality, equity and human rights for all through education, enforcement and community engagement.

Chez Ordoñez, Acting Chair

Tony Snell, Commissioner • Martha Collins, Commissioner • Sheila Ashley, Commissioner • Mayhoua Moua, Commissioner
Jennifer Bennett, Commissioner • Reginald Jackson, Commissioner • Nathan Guequierre, Commissioner



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