

## CHATHAM COUNTY 2010 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Americans of African descent have helped to develop our nation in countless ways; and

**WHEREAS**, African-American citizens have participated in every effort to secure, protect, and maintain the essence and substance of American democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of injustices, African Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States; and

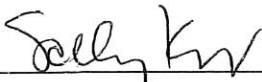
**WHEREAS**, the greatness of America is reflected in the contributions of African Americans in all walks of life as in the writings of George Moses Horton, W.E.B. DuBois, Ralph Ellison, and Alex Haley; as in the music of Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, and Stevie Wonder; as in the athletics of Jackie Robinson, Muhammed Ali, and Michael Jordan; as in the vision Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and as in the bravery of Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of Americans of all races demonstrate their commitment to the proposition that 'all Men are created equal' such as those of Levi Coffin, called the "President of the Underground Railroad," born in New Garden [now Greensboro], North Carolina, who assisted thousands of runaway slaves on their flight to freedom; Harriet Beecher Stowe, who shined a light on the injustices of slavery; President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Senator Lyman Trumbull, who introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; President Harry Truman, President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Chief Justice Earl Warren, who fought to end segregation and the denial of civil rights to African Americans; and the thousands of Americans of all races who marched side-by-side with African Americans during the civil rights movement; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has a rich African-American history including America's most famous female slave narrator, Harriet Jacobs; one of the first sit-ins during the civil rights movement, which took place in Greensboro and was initiated by students from A&T University; and the election of the first African-American mayor of a predominantly white southern city -- Chapel Hill's Howard Lee in 1969;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaims **February 2010** as **African American History Month** in Chatham County and encourages its citizens and educators to participate in activities to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our nation, state, and county.

Signed and sealed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2010,



Sally Kost, Chair, Board of Commissioners