

**CHATHAM COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
PROPOSED 2009 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, since arriving on these shores, African Americans have been a central force in the development of our national identity with a proud legacy of courage, talent, and dedication that has helped to shape and guide our nation's success and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the African American experience has seared our national conscience from the strength, suffering, courage, and triumph of their journey from the horrors of slavery and oppression through their struggles for equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, the respected historian, Carter G. Woodson initiated Negro History Week choosing a month that marks the birthdays of two important men who greatly influenced the African-American population, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the observance was expanded to African American History Month; and

WHEREAS, African American History Month aims to bridge the gap created by American history's failure to accurately acknowledge, portray, and record the contributions and inventions of African Americans and to emphasize that African American History is American History; and

WHEREAS, African American History Month acknowledges the achievements of African Americans in the military, the arts, civil rights, education, entertainment, history, law, literature, medicine, politics, science, sports, and other areas; and

WHEREAS, this observance affords special opportunities to become more knowledgeable about African-American heritage and to honor the many African-American leaders who have contributed to the progress of Chatham County, the state, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, such knowledge can strengthen the insight of all our citizens regarding the issues of human rights, the great strides that have been made in the crusade to eliminate the barriers of equality for people of color, and the continuing struggle against racial discrimination and poverty; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate African American History Month, we recommit ourselves to raising awareness and appreciation of African American history by teaching our children, and all Chatham County residents, to rise above biases and bigotry; to be champions of liberty, human dignity, and equality and to rededicate ourselves to affirming the promises of our Bill of Rights and the US and North Carolina Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, African American History Month has once again given us the opportunity to look back and celebrate the past as well as a reminder of our challenge to look forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners joins with the State of North Carolina and the nation in proclaiming **February 2009** as **African American History Month** in Chatham County and encourages its citizens to participate in activities to celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the county, the state, and the nation.

Adopted this the 2nd day of February, 2009.



George Lucier, Chair

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners