RESOLUTION NO. 22-___

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING FEBRUARY 2022 AS BLACK LEGACY MONTH

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is committed to creating an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and ensures all residents have equitable opportunities to lead healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable lives; and

WHEREAS, in honoring the cultures, traditions and accomplishments of Black and African Americans that have shaped our country, we also acknowledge our nation's history of colonialism that has inflicted slavery, discrimination, deprivation, violence and genocide upon Black people; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse E. Moorland laid the foundation for Black History Month because the achievements of Black Americans were all but erased from national history and underrepresented in important policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, President Gerald Ford made Black History Month a national observance; and

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black Americans like Nina Simone, Roberta Flack, E.W. Pearson, and Isaac Dickson to the City of Asheville's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, we honor the memory of the millions of enslaved Africans who died during the Transatlantic Slave Trade; and

WHEREAS, by transitioning from looking back on history and celebrating legacy of our Black and African American community members, we create a culture of mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Black leadership has long been a bedrock of the City of Asheville, including at Stephens-Lee High School, the "Castle on the Hill" that served 900 Black students, where Elynora M. Foster was a member of the faculty and was known as the first African American woman in Asheville to receive a master's degree; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2020, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville; and

WHEREAS, we seek to repair the trauma of past oppression and broken trust by celebrating the legacy of Black cultures and voices striving together to build a future of shared hope and promise for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

February 2022 is to be celebrated as Black Legacy Month, a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of Black and African American people, to raise awareness about our shared history, to recognize the truth must come before reconciliation, and to acknowledge the important contributions that Black and African American people have made to our community and our nation.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of February, 2022.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

Approved as to form:

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CITY ATTORNEY