

# PROCLAMATION

## *Black History Month*

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month, celebrated annually during the month of February, was created by Carter G. Woodson in 1926 to highlight the contributions and accomplishments made by the Black community to our Nation, which until then had been omitted; and

**WHEREAS**, ISRAEL BEAL, born into slavery April 10, 1848, was freed from slavery by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and served as a teamster who traveled with the U.S. Army. He was a Redlands pioneer, property owner, builder, and business owner, also contributing to the construction of early churches in Redlands, the City's reservoir, the original Big Bear Dam, and planting the 160-acre vineyard which now makes up part of the University of Redlands campus; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Redlands takes this month to recognize the oldest and first African American Church in the San Bernardino Valley, the Second Baptist Church, founded in 1891 and incorporated in 1899, which has provided in its subsequent 133 years much needed spiritual leadership and resources within the Redlands community regardless of race, ethnicity, or class; and

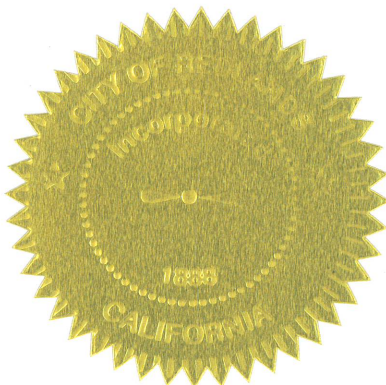
**WHEREAS**, beginning in 2018 Redlands East Valley High School established the Black Student Union (BSU) with Redlands High School following suit and re-establishing their BSU in 2019. Citrus Valley High School and Orangewood High School both established their BSU in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, these Black Student Unions significantly contribute to creating a vibrant, inclusive and culturally aware campus through events and initiatives. BSU provides a platform for dialogue and inclusivity, supports academic success, and drives lasting change. Their efforts have fostered a sense of unity and collaboration, helping to build a stronger and more inclusive school culture; and

**WHEREAS**, in our recognition of Black History Month and these great local accomplishments, we reflect on the large strides that have been made to ensure freedom for all people regardless of race, color, or creed in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Redlands hereby declares the month of February 2025 as Black History Month, and hereby encourages its residents to fight racism, intolerance and prejudice through education, kindness, compassion, and understanding.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we hereunto affix our signatures and Official Seal of the City of Redlands on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.



Mario Saucedo, Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk