



# *Proclamation*

To recognize and celebrate February 2016 as African American History Month.

**Whereas**, Black History Month and National African American History Month is an important time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans; and

**Whereas**, the tradition of celebrating African Americans began in February 1926. The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month; and

**Whereas**, the 2016 Florida Black History Month theme is "Honoring African American Heroes;" Florida is working to be the most military-friendly state in the nation, and it is important that we honor African American heroes, past and present, who have risked their lives to ensure the safety of others; and

**Whereas**, American history is full of African American heroes, veterans, military members, law enforcement officers, and first responders who have risked their lives to protect and free people all over the world ; and

**Whereas**, we are proud to honor and recognize African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society and have helped make our country a better place to live, work and visit.

**Therefore**, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lake Alfred formally recognize February 2016 as

## **"African American History Month"**

in the City of Lake Alfred, Florida and urge all citizens to recognize the impact of African Americans and extend best wishes to all observing February 2016 as Black History Month or African American History Month.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunder set my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Lake".

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Charles Lake, Mayor  
City of Lake Alfred, Florida