MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the City Commission

From: Lisa Agnor, City Manager

Date: January 22, 2016

Subject: Presentation of a proclamation declaring the month of February as "Black History Month" in Marshall, Texas

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This item has been placed on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro-Tem Moon.

A copy of the proclamation is attached.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February was chosen for this observance so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson advocated that history included not only the important efforts of reknowned people, but also the daily efforts of local people in local communities; and

WHEREAS, Marshall, Texas is an excellent example of what Dr. Woodson advocated, with major contributions by great people such as Melvin Tolson and James Farmer, and daily efforts by local men and women who are teachers, pastors, medical professionals, business owners, people who work in local businesses, and elected officials, all of whom have contributed to the life and history of our community.

NOW THEREFORE, the Marshall City Commission does hereby proclaim that the month of February, 2016 be observed as *"Black History Month"* in the City of Marshall, Texas. We call on all citizens to join in the recognition of the contributions of African-Americans to the life and history of our community and our nation.

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Eric Neal, Chairman
Marshall City Commission