

Office of the MAYOR

CITY OF GROTON
CONNECTICUT

Proclamation

Black History Month

WHEREAS, Black History Month traces its origins to 1926, when historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History established Negro History Week to ensure the preservation and recognition of African American history and contributions; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, during the nation's bicentennial, this observance was expanded to a month-long celebration and is now recognized throughout the United States and North America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides an opportunity to honor and reflect upon the profound contributions of African Americans whose leadership, innovation, labor, culture, and resilience have shaped our local communities, our nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Month also calls upon us to confront the enduring legacy of racism and inequity and to recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice, equity, and democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive community that respects, recognizes, and values the contributions and potential of all people—past, present, and future—within our city and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton proudly acknowledges and honors the history, achievements, and contributions of African Americans in our community, our state, and our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jill Rusk, Mayor of the City of Groton, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim February 2026 as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Groton, and encourage all residents to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful observance of this month, while continuing our collective efforts to build a more just, inclusive, and prosperous community for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the City of Groton, this first day of February, 2026.

Jill Rusk

Jill Rusk,
Mayor, City of Groton

