

Town of Sykesville



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each year, Black History Month is observed nationally in February; and

WHEREAS, the origins of Black History Month date back to 1915 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the organization now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and it was formally adopted in 1976 to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience; and

WHEREAS, observing Black History Month provides opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of African American history and acknowledge the centuries of struggles for equality and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month also celebrates the achievements and contributions that Black Americans have made in shaping our country, our society, and our community; and

WHEREAS, every year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History sets a theme for Black History Month and has established 2025's theme as "African Americans and Labor" which touches on the invaluable contributions of Black Americans in the workforce a story that begins with enslaved Africans brought to Colonial America who would become the keystone of labor in the newly formed United States. Beginning in the late 1820s, the longest and most ambitious railroads in the nation were built in the South, nearly entirely by Railroad Company-owned slaves. By 1850, most US enslaved persons were third-, fourth-, or fifth-generation Americans, who had long since become the bedrock of the agricultural south, and by 1860, had completed the South's railroad network, one of the most extensive in the world, and a gift to the whole of the US economy; and

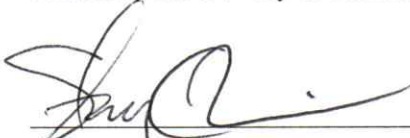
WHEREAS, Black Americans locally have and continue to make substantial contributions to industries of all kinds in our region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sykesville is proud to honor the history and contributions of Black Americans in our community and throughout our region, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to identifying and eliminating barriers that have dissuaded the full participation of our Black community members. Together, we strive to build a brighter future, fostering safety, trust, and a sense of belonging for every member of our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Town Council of Sykesville hereby proclaims the month of February 2025 as Black History Month with the theme "African Americans and Labor".

Signatures on Following Page

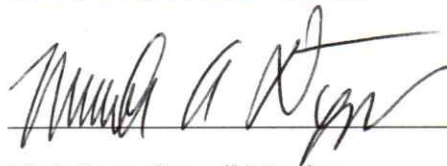
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the official seal of Sykesville to be affixed this 24th day of February in the year 2025.



Stacy Link, Mayor



Anna Carter, Council President



Mark Dyer, Council Member

Alan Grasley, Council Member



Elizabeth Guroff, Council Member



Leo Keenan, Council Member



Jeremiah Schofield, Council Member

