

# *City of Tarpon Springs, Florida*

## **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**, Black History Month grew out of the early efforts of Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History starting in 1926 where one week was dedicated to Black History; 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 celebrated all over the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans, the City of Tarpon Springs is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the first African Americans settled in Tarpon Springs in the mid-1880s primarily to work in the lumber mills and citrus industry, others arrived in the 1890s from the Bahamas and Key West to work as spongers. Some owned their own boats while others became divers and crewmen on Greek vessels and spoke fluent Greek; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans remain prominent in our community as business men and women, teachers, ministers, and public officials.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Costa S. Vatikiotis, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2024 as

### ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Tarpon Springs, Florida, to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

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***City Clerk & Collector***

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***Mayor***