



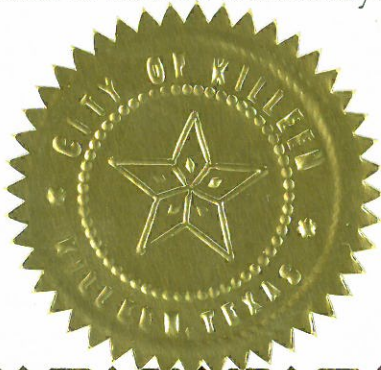
# City of Killeen

- WHEREAS** America has recognized Black history annually since 1926, first as Negro History Week and later as Black History Month and National African American History Month; and
- WHEREAS** African Americans have left an indelible mark on this great nation, and their story is too often left out of the historical narrative; and
- WHEREAS** The 2020 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and the vote," marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment, which granted Black men the right to vote in 1870, and the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted all women the right to vote and seek office in 1920; and
- WHEREAS** Killeen has been shaped positively by the influence and leadership of people of color, notably, the first Black city councilman Willie Gibson elected in 1974, the first Black city councilwoman Rosa Hereford elected in 1984 and the first Black mayor Tim Hancock elected in 2006; and
- WHEREAS** Black History Month serves as a call to action to honor the contributions of African Americans, to remember their struggle, to respect their perseverance and to ensure that future generations protect their gift of progress; and
- WHEREAS** Today, the rights to vote and to hold public office are taken for granted, so marking these important anniversaries reminds us that our nation once denied these rights to certain Americans, silencing their voices and limiting their opportunities; and
- WHEREAS** Killeen is a community that prides itself on its diversity, equality and inclusivity made possible by generations before and dependent on generations ahead.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jose L. Segarra, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Killeen do hereby proclaim February 2020 as a month for remembrance and celebration of:

## *Black History Month*

May we stand united as a community this month and every month to honor the great contributions made by African Americans for we know that diversity is both our greatest strength and our greatest hope.



**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Killeen to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2020.

  
Jose L. Segarra, MAYOR