

1 Introduced by Council President Freeman:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2023-96**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING DR. CARTER
6 G. WOODSON ON A LIFETIME OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
7 DECLARING FEBRUARY 1ST AS "DR. CARTER G. WOODSON
8 DAY"; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 **WHEREAS**, born December 19, 1875 in Virginia, Carter Godwin
11 Woodson was the fourth of nine children and the son of former slaves
12 Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson; and

13 **WHEREAS**, with limited educational opportunities in Virginia
14 during the Reconstruction Era, Carter G. Woodson and his family moved
15 to Huntington, West Virginia, where he had to work the New River
16 Gorge coalfields to help supplement the family's income. At the age
17 of 20, he was finally able to begin his formal education at Frederick
18 Douglass High School, one of the few black high schools at the time;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, Carter G. Woodson received his high school diploma in
21 just two years, went on to earn his first collegiate degree from
22 Berea College in Berea, Kentucky in 1903, and later obtained another
23 Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree at the University of Chicago.
24 Dr. Woodson earned his PhD in History from Harvard University, making
25 him the second black American (only following W.E.B. Du Bois) to
26 graduate with a PhD from Harvard, and the only person of enslaved
27 parentage to earn a PhD in History from any institution in the United
28 States; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the
30 Study of African American Life and History in 1915 to better educate
31 the public about the contributions of Black Americans in the formation

1 of the country, its history, and culture. Nationally recognized as
2 the Father of Black History, Dr. Woodson believed that if a race has
3 no preserved history, it may become a negligible factor in the thought
4 of the world, and it stands in danger of being forgotten; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1926, Dr. Woodson pioneered the celebration of
6 "Negro History Week", originally designated for the second week in
7 February to coincide with marking the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln
8 and Frederick Douglass. The Black United Students and Black educators
9 at Kent State University expanded this idea to include an entire
10 month, "Black History Month", beginning on February 1, 1970; now
11 therefore

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

13 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby commends Dr.
14 Carter G. Woodson's lifetime of accomplishments, as an activist,
15 teacher, author, scholar, and mentor. In recognition of his
16 achievements and in celebration of Black History month, Jacksonville
17 City Council hereby declares February 1st as "Dr. Carter G. Woodson
18 Day".

19 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
20 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
21 without the Mayor's signature.
22

23 Form Approved:

24
25 /s/ Carla A. Lopera

26 Office of General Counsel

27 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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