

# PROCLAMATION

## Office of the Mayor Bridgewater, New Jersey

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to the cultural fabric and progress of our communities; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, scholar and a child of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is now know as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson started the first Black History Week in February of 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, which aligns with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, during the United States Bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became Black History Month, and is now recognized and celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, After the Civil War, former slaves migrated from the South and settled in communities all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, Bridgewater Township has benefited from the rich cultural vibrancy and community building carried out by former slaves and their decedents, especially with the founding of Hobbstown; and

WHEREAS, Hobbstown was founded in 1920 by Reverend Amos, General and Robert Hobbs as a place to express themselves freely, realize new economic opportunity and escape racism; and

WHEREAS, the founders built homes, businesses, recreational areas and the Macedonia Baptist Church that would lay the foundation for a vibrant community for future generations and add chapters of rich history to Bridgewater Township; and

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, do hereby proclaim February 2021;**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**As a reminder to all Bridgewater residents to reflect and learn about the role that the African American community has had in the development and progress in our society nationally and right here in our community.**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M C Moench", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew C. Moench, Mayor  
Township of Bridgewater

**DATED: February 2021**