

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 6th day of February 2024, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson,
Trustee Sundland, Trustee Trezise, Trustee Wilson

ABSENT: NONE

The following resolution was offered by Treasurer Deschaine and supported by Trustee Wilson

WHEREAS, Meridian Township acknowledges the contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States and that all people of the United States benefit from the inclusion of African American contributions to US history; and

WHEREAS, In February, Meridian Township recognizes Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of black history to Township history, Michigan history and US history; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township encourages learning from the past in order to understand and improve the experiences that shape the United States; and

WHEREAS, African Americans engage and serve the United States at all levels of American life including government, military, academia, and industry; and

WHEREAS, During Black History Month Meridian Township acknowledges and commemorates the importance of African American citizenship, engagement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, In Meridian Township, Gilbert Sherman was the first African American to serve on the Township Board, appointed Township Treasurer in 1999. In 2000, Gilbert Sherman was the first African American to run for the office of Treasurer and thus for a Township Board seat; and

WHEREAS, Milton L. Scales was the first African American elected to the Township Board in 2012. He served from 2012-2016; and

WHEREAS, Since 2015, the Meridian Township Board has adopted a recurring commitment to increased diversity in all aspects of Township function, and specifically in it's "Board Goals and Objectives"; and

WHEREAS, In November 2016, Patricia Herring Jackson, became the first African American female elected to the Township Board, as a Trustee; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, the federal government declared Juneteenth a National Independence Day, a federal holiday for us all and Meridian Township began hosting community celebrations to bring awareness of the holiday and its importance to honor the true end of slavery in America;

