

# PROCLAMATION

## *Black History Month ~ February 2023*

**WHEREAS**, in 1926 Carter G. Woodson laid the foundation for Black History Month to dedicate an observance of the contributions, accomplishments, and achievements of Black Americans, a history that previously had all but been erased from national history and underrepresented in important policy decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1976, February has been designated Black History Month as a time in which especially memorable events are recognized and celebrated, honoring, and affirming the importance of African American history and culture as an essential element to the foundation of American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Americans for generations have courageously led the pursuit of justice and equality ~ to overcome the past injustices, yet still moving forward ~ taking on the challenges to advance reforms and break down barriers as we strive as a community to live by the principle that all people are created equal; and

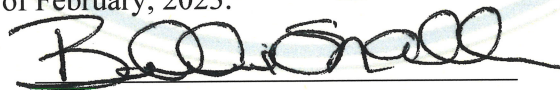
**WHEREAS**, the City of Elk Grove recognizes the late Dr. Rex Fortune as a strong visionary who used his extensive experience and expertise as a school superintendent for over 20 years when he founded Fortune School of Education in 1989 to prepare a more diverse group of teaching candidates into public schools in California; and Dr. Margaret Fortune president/CEO for her dedication and contributions to the Elk Grove community and the Sacramento region; and

**WHEREAS**, after his daughter, Dr. Margaret Fortune joined Fortune School of Education as its president/CEO in 2008, the organization expanded to include a system of tuition-free, college preparatory and public charter schools with combined enrollment of over two thousand grades PreK-12, including four schools in Elk Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, Drs. Rex and Margaret Fortune have, through deep-rooted community service, tirelessly worked to bridge the African American educational achievement gap by preparing scholars for college starting in preschool.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Elk Grove hereby affirms and proclaims February 2023 as Black History Month in the City of Elk Grove and we thank Rex and Margaret Fortune for their commitment to the community.

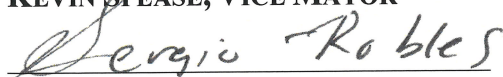
**SIGNED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023.



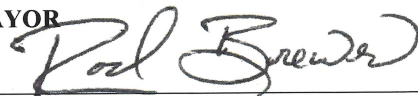
BOBBIE SINGH-ALLEN, MAYOR



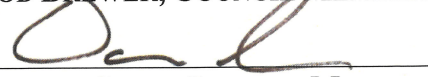
KEVIN SPEASE, VICE MAYOR



SERGIO ROBLES, COUNCIL MEMBER



ROD BREWER, COUNCIL MEMBER



DARREN SUEN, COUNCIL MEMBER