

RESOLUTION NO. 43

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2025 AS “AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH” IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 2/10/25

By McLaughlin, Willingham, Efekoro, Fein, Simpson, and Robinson:

WHEREAS, This month Albany County joins the nation in commemorating Black History Month, an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the achievements, contributions, and rich cultural heritage of African Americans. It is a time to honor their determination, triumphs, and enduring legacy, while fostering a deeper understanding of their historical and contemporary experiences, and

WHEREAS, The 2025 Black History Month theme, “African Americans and Labor,” highlights the profound and transformative roles that Black labor, both free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, has played in shaping the United States, Africa, and the global Diaspora, and

WHEREAS, African Americans, from the agricultural labor of enslaved Africans to the skilled trades, professional occupations, and social justice movements, have made vital contributions to economic and social progress, despite systemic challenges and discrimination, and

WHEREAS, The 2025 theme commemorates key milestones, such as the centennial of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids, founded by A. Philip Randolph, and recognizes the historic struggles for labor equity, economic justice, and civil rights, which remain ongoing, and

WHEREAS, The contributions of African Americans to labor include not only compensated work in industries, government, and public service but also unpaid labor in community-building, activism, and institution creation, underscoring the diversity and impact of their efforts across time and space, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By this Honorable Body that February 2025 is hereby designated as African-American History Month in Albany County, focusing on the theme “African Americans and Labor,” and all citizens of Albany County are encouraged to reflect upon the rich history of African Americans in the arts, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.