



**NEWS RELEASE**  
For immediate release  
February 3, 2016

Media Contact: Gerson Gomez  
publicaffairs@usccr.gov  
(202) 376-8371

### **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Observes National African-American History Month**

Washington, DC -- The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights joins the nation in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of African-Americans, past and present. Since 1976, the month of February, has served as an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled for Civil Rights, and in so doing contributed to the richness and diversity of American society and history.

President Obama marks the 40th year of National African American History Month by asking us all to “continue to march toward a day when every person knows the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” President Obama's proclamation can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/29/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month-2016>.

“One month is not enough to honor the struggle, sacrifice, and success of African-Americans and their contributions to our nation. However, let us use this month to learn, share, and understand the unique contributions of Black Americans and realize that we all share more in common than separates us. In so doing, we honor the legacy of African-American history and strengthen the opportunities for the present and the future.” - Chairman Castro.

#####

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing a federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about Commission’s reports and meetings, visit <http://www.usccr.gov>.