



STAYCONNECTED

Ward 2 Newsletter Feb. 2021 / Issue 2/ Volume 2

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Council Member Reuben Blackwell



ROCKY MOUNT, NC
THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Dear Neighbors,

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month, and this year is no exception. While there is a lot to be proud of, it is hard not to reflect on how the challenges of 2020 ranging from the coronavirus pandemic, removal of confederate monuments, and civil unrest impacted our nation and our community. While we remained optimistic, the event on January 6, 2021 will forever be in our minds.

Finding common ground can often be difficult, but it allows everyone to focus on the issues at hand. From politics to policies, we have been divided; however, we can all agree as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said, "There can be no justice without peace, and there can be no peace without justice." Unlike in the past, we are in the unique position because people are talking which allows us to truly address social equity, unemployment, crime, as well as healthcare and other issues in our community.

So, during this month of celebration, I encourage you to reflect, reconnect and refocus. Great things are underway, starting with Black Lives Matter Movement and Stacy Abrams both being nominated for the Nobel peace prize. Also, for the first time in history, the United States elected a female and person of color as Vice President, giving us even more reason to celebrate.

While I have reflected a lot on the national landscape, in our Ward and throughout the City we have several individuals who have and continue to make a difference in our community. I'd like to recognize a few living and past Black History Makers in Ward 2:

- **Joyce Dickens, Founder and CEO of the Rocky Mount/Edgecombe Community Development Corporation**
- **Sue Perry Cole, President and CEO of the NC Association of Community Development Corporations**
- **The late Buck and Lugenia Leonard, Baseball Hall of Famer and his enterprising wife**
- **The late James Mercer, President of the MC Braswell Neighborhood Association and leader of the movement to incorporate Battleboro into Rocky Mount**
- **Coach Zollie Harris, Founder of the Rocky Mount Junior Golf Academy**
- **The late Michael Wright, celebrated athlete and Founder of the Carolina Stallions**
- **The late Lewis Turner, noted civil rights and humanitarian activist**
- **Celeste Beatty, Harlem Brew South**

There are so many more! It was hard to choose! So, as we continue to celebrate Black History Month, please take the time to recognize that we are in this journey together.



CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 8 / 5 p.m.
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Monday, Feb. 8 / 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting

Monday, Feb. 22 / 4 p.m.
City Council Meeting

All meetings are held in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber, third floor Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building

The Business and Collections Services Department will utilize the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act to assist utilities customers within the city limits who meet income requirements. For info, visit rockymountnc.gov or contact our Business Services Center at 972-1250.

Ward 2 Zoom Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Feb. 9, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/9395631542>

Meeting ID: 939 5631 5428
Passcode: 819123
To Join by phone: 1 (929) 205-6099 or 1 (301) 715-8592

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