



**Proclamation
In Celebration of Black History Month 2018
Hastings City Council, Hastings, MN**

Whereas we celebrate the Black History of Hastings that began with the arrival of Robert Burns, a barber, in 1857...

Whereas we recognize that the early Black residents of Hastings assumed the responsibilities of citizenship as they started businesses, gained employment, purchased property, built houses, established churches, began civic organizations, and educated their children...

Whereas, we recognize that the intentional burning of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brown's Chapel, in 1907, and that a growing Ku Klux Klan presence during the 1920's including dances, marches, rallies, and cross burnings served to intimidate and ostracize, denying the fruits of citizenship and community to our Black citizens...

Whereas, on behalf of our forefathers and foremothers, we acknowledge these unkind and unjust acts from our past...

Whereas, we dedicate ourselves to building a more welcoming community and celebrating the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, that will someday allow all Hastings residents to realize the dreams of our first Black citizens...

Therefore, in celebration of Hastings Black History Month 2018, and in the spirit of reconciliation, we ask the Hastings community to attend "Building Bridges: Our Black History" at the Hastings High School Auditorium 2:00 PM Saturday, February 24, 2018.