

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-090-2021

Proposed by Council Member Hawkins

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Turner, Davis,
Taveras, Ivey, and Dernoga

Co-Sponsors Council Member Anderson-Walker

Date of Introduction September 21, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Recognition of Dr. Carter G. Woodson

3 For the purpose of recognizing Dr. Carter G. Woodson as the Father of the Study of Black
4 History.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was born on December 19, 1875 in New Canton,
6 Virginia, is recognized as one of the first scholars to study the history of the African diaspora,
7 including African American History; and

8 WHEREAS, as a youth, Dr. Woodson, initially had to work in the coal mines near
9 Huntington, West Virginia, which left little time to embark on any formal education; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson persevered and eventually enrolled in Douglass High School in
11 Huntington, where he graduated in 1897; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson would go on to obtain his Baccalaureate Degree in Literature
13 from Berea College in Kentucky in 1903, his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from the
14 University of Chicago in 1908, and his PhD in History from Harvard University in 1912, only
15 the second African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard, behind W.E.B. Du Bois; and

16 WHEREAS, convinced that the role of his own people in American history and in the
17 history of other cultures was being ignored or misrepresented among scholars, Dr. Woodson
18 realized the need for research into the neglected past of African Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, in response to this need, he co-founded the Association of the Study of Negro
20 Life and History, which is now called the Association for the Study of African American Life
21 and History (ASALH), on September 9, 1915; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson's purpose as he put it was "to treat the records scientifically and
2 to publish the findings of the world" in order to avoid "the awful fate of becoming a negligible
3 factor in the thought of the world"; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1915, Dr. Woodson published "The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861",
5 followed by the books entitled "Century of Negro Migration" in 1918 and "The History of the
6 Negro Church" in 1927; and

7 WHEREAS, In January 1916, Dr. Woodson began publication of the scholarly *Journal of*
8 *Negro History*, which never missed an issue, and in 2002, it was renamed the *Journal of African*
9 *American History* and continues to be published by the ASALH; and

10 WHEREAS, Woodson described the purpose of the Association as the "scientific study" of
11 the "neglected aspects of Negro life and history" by training a new generation of Black people in
12 historical research and methodology. Believing that history belonged to everybody, not just the
13 historians, Woodson sought to engage Black civic leaders, high school teachers, clergymen,
14 women's groups and fraternal associations in his project to improve the understanding of Afro-
15 American history; and

16 WHEREAS, because Dr. Woodson's tireless work in the endeavor of uplifting the African
17 American race through scholarly pursuit perfectly aligned with its own Cardinal Principles,
18 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated elected Dr. Woodson as an honorary member in 1919;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
21 awarded its prestigious Spingarn Medal to Dr. Woodson in 1926; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1926, Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week",
23 designated for the second week in February, which ultimately served as a precursor to its current
24 iteration now nationally known as Black History Month; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson died on April 3, 1950, at the age of 74 and is buried at Lincoln
26 Memorial Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
28 County, Maryland, that in recognition of Dr. Woodson's exceptional body of work and
29 accomplishments in the field of the historical study of the Black experience, Dr. Woodson is
30 hereby recognized as the Father of the Study of Black History.

Adopted this 26th day of October, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council