



City of
Santa Rosa

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the African culture, like many others, celebrates the change from childhood to spiritual adulthood. Girls and boys are separated from everyday life and taught appropriate cultural standards such as: responsibility, family values, respect for God, respect for elders, self-esteem, respect for family and other cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. James E. Coffee, Ms. Shirley Gordon, and the Community Baptist Church founded the Rites of Passage program in 2000 to serve as a multi-cultural mentoring and skills building program designed for youth transitioning from childhood to adulthood; and

WHEREAS, in the Bridge to the Future – Rites of Passage program, adult mentors have adopted the role of elders passing on the principles of self-awareness, purpose and responsibility through a series of workshops and group interactions to more than 300 local youth, ages 14 – 18 years. Youth attend an eight-month course focusing on self-awareness, team building, wellness, etiquette, cultural awareness, financial planning, public speaking, community outreach, and college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, Bridge to the Future – Rites of Passage became a 501(c)3 in February 2015, operating under a Board of Directors and expanding the program beyond the church to the broader Santa Rosa community; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month, a time in which we honor the work, efforts and achievements by black Americans and a time for which we recognize the central role of African Americans in U.S. history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Chris Coursey, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby recognize the Bridge to the Future – Rites of Passage organization and their contributions to Santa Rosa youth, their families and the community as part of

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Mayor Chris Coursey
February 28, 2017

