

Proclamation

Barney Ford Day
February 1, 2023

WHEREAS, the Town of Breckenridge honors Black Americans and celebrates the accomplishments of Barney Ford, during Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Barney Ford was born enslaved over 200 years ago in 1822, escaped at age 26, and wrote to his enslaver, “if I can do better by myself than I can with you, I feel that I am at liberty to do so; for this is common to all free men.”; and,

WHEREAS, Barney Ford came to Denver in 1860 and was called “King of Restaurateurs”; and,

WHEREAS, Barney Ford suffered significant business losses due to the Great Denver Fire, bankruptcy, and financial ruin, yet remained undeterred in his pursuits; and,

WHEREAS, Barney Ford was the first Colorado African American to serve on a grand jury and along with other Black Leaders petitioned for universal suffrage in the state constitution,

WHEREAS, in 2022 Governor Jarod Polis, on behalf of the State of Colorado, signed a proclamation celebrating Barney Ford's legacy and pioneering efforts for civil rights during his lifetime

WHEREAS, by the Town of Breckenridge’s continued celebration and recognition of Black Leaders in our history, we hope to firmly demonstrate the respect and value we have for our residents of Black heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Mayor Eric Mamula, do hereby proclaim February 1, 2023, as Barney Ford Day and call upon all Breckenridge residents to join me in honoring the life and contributions of Barney Ford to our Town, State, and Nation as we enter Black History Month.

Adopted on this 24th day of January 2023.

_____/s/_____
Mayor Eric Mamula

Attest:

_____/s/_____
Town Clerk