

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have played an important role in the history of the State of Vermont; and

**WHEREAS**, Vermont was a leader on the issue of slavery, banning slavery in its constitution as early as 1777, the first state to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, March 9, 2016 will mark the 151st anniversary of the date on which Vermont ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning slavery and involuntary servitude; and

**WHEREAS**, Vermont was the first state to celebrate an African American graduating from college; and

**WHEREAS**, African American Vermonters have made tremendous contributions to our communities and to the social and economic fabric of this great state; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have become leaders in all sectors including the arts, health, education, community service, business and public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, we must respect and encourage understanding of the knowledge, experiences, and traditions of all populations and cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, the tragedies of recent national events have brought important attention to the challenges we face, and emphasize the need for engagement and better relationships between communities and law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, we must continue to reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities for all populations, and support efforts to increase diversity and promote racial equality in our Green Mountain State;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2016 as

**BLACK LIVES MATTER DAY**

in Vermont, and encourage all Vermonters to recognize the important contributions of African Americans



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 9th day of February, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor