African American Heritage Month

February is African American Heritage Month when our country honors the achievements of African Americans and highlights the important role they have played in history. There are multiple events planned throughout the City to celebrate and honor this heritage. The NAACP raised the NAACP Long Beach Branch flag at City Hall and Long Beach City College is hosting multiple virtual speakers throughout the month. The Long Beach Public Library held an online event earlier this month on Black History Storyline, filled with songs, stories, and crafts exploring prominent Black Figures and historical events.

In the City of Long Beach we have our own list of civil rights icons and activists.

- Doris Topsy-Elvord was the first African American woman to serve on the City Council in 1992.
- Ernest S. McBride Sr., co-founded the local NAACP chapter in 1940. Along with other NAACP leaders, he fought to have African Americans hired by the city, including its police and fire departments. As a result of his efforts with the NAACP, the first black police officers were hired in 1950 in the city.
- Autrilla Watkins Scott was an author and a poet and nominated for the city’s “Volunteer of the Year Award”. In 2000 she became the first African American woman to have a lane named after her in the city.

We honor and celebrate the African American Heritage that has made our City so much richer and more diverse. We honor them this month and every month.
Industry Links

Acore Capital raises $1B to provide rescue cash to hotels

After ‘Unprecedented Growth,’ Long Beach Works To Weather The Pandemic

Sears in Long Beach Amongst the Latest Store Closures

For more information, please contact Sergio Ramirez, Deputy Director, Economic Development Department, at sergio.ramirez@longbeach.gov.