

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 247

Approved June 1, 2021

WHEREAS, The month of May holds great historical significance for Haitians all around the globe as it was in May of 1803 when the people of Haiti signified their unity during the Congress of Arcahaie representing the first sign of unity following over three years of revolution; and

WHEREAS, During the first meeting of the Congress of Arcahaie, the country's founding father, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, replaced the French flag by tearing it apart and replacing it with a blue and red flag, symbolizing that the country no longer wanted to be recognized as a French territory and that the people who lived on that land preferred to be dead rather than be enslaved; and

WHEREAS, The Haitian revolutionary leaders Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who are both considered great leaders of the Haitian independence movement, led the revolution that completely abolished slavery in the French colony of Hispaniola (later Haiti), to be governed by Black former slaves as a French protectorate; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's independence from France in 1804, making it the first free black republic, galvanized people across the globe to rise up against injustice and has been cited as a major contributing factor to the freeing of black slaves in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The month of May is celebrated as Haitian Heritage Month by Haitians across the globe to honor Haiti's contributions to the world and to draw inspiration from the Haitian people's determination and strength to resist and fight for their country's sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Providence takes this month to recognize the contributions and influence of Haitian Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the country as a whole, the State of Rhode Island, and to the City of Providence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby acknowledges the month of May as Haitian Heritage Month in perpetuity in order to recognize the contributions that the Haitian people have made to the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island throughout our history.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 20 2021
READ AND PASSED

JOHN J. IGLIOZZI, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor

Date:

6/1/21