

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 204

Approved June 13, 2022

WHEREAS, The month of May holds great historical significance for Haitians all around the globe because it when black and mulatto officers united during The Congress of Arcahaie to fight for Haiti's independence; 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 slaves; and

WHEREAS, The Haitian revolutionary general Toussaint Louverture, who was born on May 20, 1740, is considered a great leader of the Haitian independence movement who emancipated the slaves, and negotiated for the French colony on Hispaniola, Saint-Domingue (later Haiti), to be governed by Black former slaves as a French protectorate; and

WHEREAS, When Haiti won its independence from France in 1804, making it the first free black republic, it 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

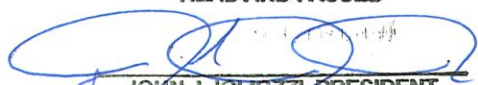

WHEREAS, The month of May is celebrated as Haitian Heritage Month by Haitians across the globe to honor Haiti's contributions to the world and to draw inspiration from the Haitian people's determination and strength to resist and fight for their country's sovereignty; and

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 RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby call upon all community members to celebrate the Haitian community in Providence and across the country for all that they contribute to our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby recognizes the month of May each year as "Haitian Heritage Month".

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 2 2022
READ AND PASSED


JOHN J. IGLIOZI, PRESIDENT

CLERK
ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 6/13/22