

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-95

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union; and

WHEREAS, emigration from the Caribbean to the American colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean were brought to the United States; and

WHEREAS, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the current population of people from the Caribbean is estimated at over 4.4 million; and

WHEREAS, like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence; and

WHEREAS, also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean have diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, independence movements throughout the Caribbean and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the Caribbean and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton, a Founding Father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury was born in the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, many influential Caribbean Americans have contributed to the rich history of the United States, including Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music; Sylvia Winter, influential feminist, writer, and human rights activist; Cicely Tyson, legendary star of stage and screen; John Russworm, co-founder of Freedom's Journal, the first Black-owned newspaper; Mervyn Dymally, first African-American Lieutenant Governor of California and first Caribbean immigrant to serve in Congress, and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President; and

WHEREAS, the many influential Caribbean Americans in the history of the United States also include Kamala Harris, the first African-American Vice President; Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State; Eric Holder, the first African-American Attorney General; Malcolm Gladwell, noted author and social commentator; E. Michael Thelwell, distinguished academic, author, and civil rights activist; Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role; Harry Belafonte, a musician, actor, and activist; Al Roker, a meteorologist and television personality; and Roberto Clemente, the first Latino inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans have contributed to every aspect of our society, including greatly to the fine arts, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, the military, music, science, medicine, engineering, technology, and other fields in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans share their culture through festivals, carnivals, music, dance, film, food, and literature, which enrich the cultural landscape of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States third border; and

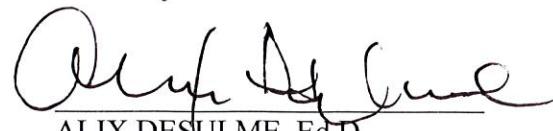
WHEREAS, the people of the Caribbean share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. **Designation.** That the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby proclaim the month of June as Caribbean Heritage Month in the City of North Miami.

Section 2. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 13th day of June, 2023.



ALIX DESULME, Ed.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST:



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN KASSANDRA TIMOTHE

Moved by: Estimé-Irvin

Seconded by: Charles

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.
Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin
Councilman Scott Galvin
Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA
Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles

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