

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-229

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JANUARY 1 AS HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY AND HONORING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SOUP JOUMOU; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Haitian-Americans constitute one of the largest minority communities within the City of North Miami (“City”) and make significant contributions to the cultural diversity and richness of the City; and

WHEREAS, in December 1492, Italian colonist Christopher Columbus sighted the island of Hispaniola, then-named La Isla Espanola, whose native Taino and Ciboney population was enslaved by the Spanish and forced to mine for gold; and

WHEREAS, after gold mines were exhausted and European diseases, combined with harsh working conditions, killed a majority of the island’s indigenous population, the French took control of the Western portion of the island, named Saint-Domingue, and began importing increasing numbers of enslaved Africans; and

WHEREAS, as enslaved Africans endured brutal workdays and suffered and died from injuries, infections, tropical diseases, malnutrition, and starvation, and as free Blacks became growingly frustrated with a racist society, revolution began, with thousands of enslaved persons, led by formerly enslaved military general Toussaint L’Ouverture, revolting against the colonial French regime in 1791; and

WHEREAS, the French revolutionary government abolished slavery in 1794 and, in 1801, Toussaint L’Ouverture successfully liberated Saint-Domingue from French control, but was soon after captured and extradited by militants sent on behalf of Napoleon Bonaparte, who wished to restore French rule and slavery to the region; and

WHEREAS, Jean-Jacques Dessalines successfully led the Haitian Revolution following General L'ouverture's arrest, defeating the French army and declaring the entire island the independent Republic of Haiti on January 1, 1804; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is the first nation to be founded by formerly enslaved people and the second nation to gain independence in the Americas, which continues to serve as a great source of pride for Haitians and all people of Haitian descent; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Haiti and people of Haitian descent all across the world celebrate Haitian Independence Day on January 1 to recognize Haiti's strength, resilience, and rich cultural heritage, by gathering with friends and family, preparing and dining on Haitian cuisine, including Soup Joumou, also known as pumpkin soup; and

WHEREAS, Soup Joumou represents a historical victory over oppression, as it was once reserved for the French slave owners and forbidden to the enslaved people, it has become a tradition to prepare, share, and indulge on January 1st, celebrating their Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Haitian-Americans reside, worship, and engage in commerce and recreation in the City of North Miami; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Miami has a history of recognizing and celebrating its Haitian community, including the designation of May as Haitian Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, designating January 1 as Haitian Independence Day in the City of North Miami would further conserve Haitian heritage, formalize and foster relationships among residents, businesses, nonprofits, and community groups, as well as enable the showcasing, preservation, harnessing, and celebration of North Miami's religious, academic, civic, cultural, health, and commercial Haitian institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami desire to declare January 1 as Haitian Independence Day and honor the historical significance of Soup Joumou in the City of North Miami.

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

Section 1. Designation. That the City of North Miami hereby designate January 1 as Haitian Independence Day in the City of North Miami.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 4 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 9th day of December, 2025.



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 ESTIME-IRVIN

Moved by: Estime-Irvin

Seconded by: Timothe

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes) <input type="checkbox"/> (No) <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Vice Mayor Kassandra Timothe, MPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) <input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) <input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Kevin A. Burns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) <input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles, M.Ed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) <input type="checkbox"/> (No)