



The City of Minneapolis

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

By Cano

Recognizing Haitian Flag Day

Whereas, in 1492 the Indigenous Taino people discovered the lost mercenary Christopher Columbus off the coast of what was known then and now as Haiti, a name deriving from the Arawak language, and one which was restored after Independence was won from the French; and

Whereas, after a painful history of Indigenous genocide and cruel exploitation of the labor of enslaved African peoples on vast sugar and coffee plantations that transferred significant wealth to European colonial powers, Haiti became the only nation in the Western Hemisphere to defeat three European empires, and remains the only nation in the world established as the result of a successful revolutionary uprising of enslaved African people; and

Whereas, hundreds of Haitians have made the Twin Cities their home, often as refugees, and this civically engaged community is a unique part of the diversity of Minneapolis, contributing to our vibrant arts, musical scene, and local business community ; and

Whereas, when Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2010, the Haitian diaspora community in Minneapolis and around the world took action, gathering resources and supplies to send home, and the local Haitian community created the nonprofit Haitian Community of Minnesota to align efforts for the earthquake relief and have continued to provide services to local Haitian families through this organization; and

Whereas, the nation of Haiti and Haitian people all over the world celebrate Haitian Flag Day each year on May 18 which commemorates the adoption of the flag at the 1803 Arcahaye Conference and provides an opportunity for the Haitian community to come together to celebrate and share their history and culture;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That May 18, 2016, shall be recognized as Haitian Flag Day in Minneapolis.

Passed this the 13th Day of May, 2016

Barbara A. Johnson, President of the Council

APPROVED:

Betsy Hodges, Mayor

ATTEST:

Casey Carl, City Clerk