

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY AS HAITIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
AND
CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HAITIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the histories of the United States, Chicago and Haiti are inextricably intertwined;

WHEREAS, the United States was founded and built by immigrants from every country in the world, including Haiti, and the strength of the United States lies in its diversity;

WHEREAS, Haitians and Americans fought side-by-side in the American Revolution at Savannah, Georgia in 1779;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago and Haiti share a common bond of mutual values and a long-standing commitment to democratic principles;

WHEREAS, Haitian-Americans are noted for their achievements in literature, music, business, and the arts;

WHEREAS, Haitian-Americans have deeply enriched American culture and play significant roles in shaping the United States;

WHEREAS, historians of Chicago recognized a natural born Haitian man named Jean Baptiste Point du Sable as the city's earliest non-native permanent resident and Founder of Chicago in the 1780s;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to celebrating the Haitian-American community, culture, language, experiences and contributions that enrich and strengthen our City;

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has a long and rich history of naming of many monuments, public buildings, points of interests and landmarks honoring the legacy of the City's founder, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable and the Haitian community; such as in 1934 opening **DuSable High School** in the Bronzeville community; in 1965 **constructing Pioneer Court** at the site of du Sable's homestead and **erecting a large bronze bust of du Sable** at the site in 2009; in 1968, the **DuSable Museum of African-American History** was renamed in honor of Point du Sable; Mayor Harold Washington announced plans to create **DuSable Park** in 1987; renaming the Michigan Avenue Bridge as the **DuSable Bridge** in October 2010; and in 2021 **Lake Shore Drive was renamed** in Point du Sable's honor;

WHEREAS, an estimated 2.5 million people in the United States are of Haitian descent and approximately 40,000 of them live in Chicago;

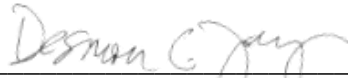
WHEREAS, May 18th is Flag Day and is the most celebrated holiday in Haitian culture and is celebrated by people of Haitian descent throughout the world;

WHEREAS, May is a time of celebration, cultural awareness, and traditional observance for Haitian-Americans; and

WHEREAS, May is an appropriate month to establish as "**Haitian-American Heritage Month**"
Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this **twenty-second** day of **May, 2024**, do hereby designate **May 1 through May 31** as "Haitian-American Heritage Month" in the City of Chicago, and call upon all Chicago to observe this month and recognize the rich heritage and culture of the Haitian-American community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be presented to the Haitian-American community and other appropriate parties as a symbol of the City of Chicago's appreciation and support.



Desmon Yancy
Alderman 5th Ward