

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

June 3, 2020

234-2020

DATE _____

NUMBER _____

TITLE: **A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING HAITIAN FLAG DAY.**
(Sponsored by Council Member Donna K. Williams)

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township is a diverse municipality with a strong Haitian community; and

WHEREAS, the flag of Haiti was adopted on May 18, 1803, after Haitian Revolution leader and founding father of Haiti, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, tore the white section out of the French flag and had his goddaughter, Catherine Flon, sew together the Red and Blue sections, creating the first flag of the Republic of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian people are the first enslaved people to successfully lead a rebellion against their enslavers, and to find a nation by the formerly enslaved, after having declared independence from France in 1804; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian Flag is said to represent the unity of the Nation’s people of color and a rejection of its colonizers; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Haiti and people of Haitian descent all across the world to celebrate Haitian Flag Day on May 18th and to recognize Haiti’s strength, resilience, and rich cultural heritage, by gathering with friends and family, preparing and dining on Haitian cuisine, and participating in parades, festivals, and concerts; and

WHEREAS, the United States has the largest Haitian Diaspora in the world, serving as home to approximately 915,000 first and second-generation Haitian-Americans; and

WHEREAS, as the anti-immigrant climate in the United States further threatens Haitian-Americans—including President Trump’s alleged derogatory remarks towards Haiti, among other Caribbean, African and Latin American countries, and his administration’s attempt to end Temporary Protected Status for approximately 58,000 Haitians—it is now important to show solidarity with our Haitian-American public, while celebrating its traditions and values; and;

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township Administration has traditionally honored May 18th as Haitian Flag Day by inviting the Haitian-American community to attend the raising of the Haitian Flag in front of City Hall with the Mayor, while enjoying a cultural celebration filled with Haitian music, Haitian food and Haitian culture; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the social gathering restrictions imposed by Governor Murphy in an ongoing measure to defeat this crippling disease, the Administration was not able to host its annual recognition of Haitian Flag Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Orange Township, in keeping with its annual tradition, be and hereby recognizes May 18, 2020, as Haitian Flag Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Orange Township calls upon the people of the City of Orange Township to take time to recognize the rich history and culture of the Haitian people and their many contributions to the City of Orange.

Adopted:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President

Vougin Parchment on behalf of the City Attorney

CITY ATTORNEY