

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE May 7, 2024NUMBER 248-2024

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING HAITIAN FLAG DAY IN THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP ON MAY 18, 2024. (Submitted by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten & South Ward Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson)

**WHEREAS**, Haitian Flag Day, observed every year on May 18, is a national holiday in Haiti that commemorates the establishment of the Haitian flag during the Haitian revolution. Several U.S. cities with a sizable Haitian population observe the day. Both inside and outside of Haiti, Haitians commemorate and enjoy the day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haitian flag was approved on May 18, 1803, on the final day of the Arcahaie Congress. The convention resulted in two significant outcomes, the foundation of a united leadership of the revolutionary army under the supreme authority of Jean-Jacques Dessalines and the indigenous adoption of a flag; and

**WHEREAS**, Jean-Jacques Dessalines designed the flag by pulling away the white center of a French tricolor. Catherine Flon, his goddaughter, stitched the remaining horizontal bands together, transforming the tricolor into the bicolor. The blue in the Haitian flag is claimed to represent Haitians of African heritage, while the red represents 'Gens de couleur,' French for "people of color."; and

**WHEREAS**, the flag has been modified multiple times over the years. In 1804, the bands became vertical. A red and black variant has also been used on a few occasions. The present flag was approved on February 17, 1986, following Jean-Claude Duvalier's resignation, and was reaffirmed a year later with the official approval of the March 29, 1987, constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the first flag was a watershed point in Haiti's history, and it became an annual event on May 18. Universities Day was added to the celebrations in 1919 by the government. The government considered highlighting the educational system as crucial because the schooling system was under threat because of the U.S. occupation of Haiti, which began in 1915; and

**WHEREAS**, The coat of arms on the Haitian flag, placed in the middle of the bicolor backdrop, contains the country's most important symbolism. The nation's readiness to defend its freedom is symbolized by the use of weaponry on the coat of arms. The royal palm in this national emblem also stands for independence; and

**WHEREAS**, This holiday allows us to show off our patriotic side. It is a day to celebrate Haiti and its people; and

**WHEREAS**, Haitian Flag Day is a day for learning and sharing information. It is a day to learn about the land's history, forefathers, and many other fascinating stories; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haitian national flag represents the country's unity. A single flag can unite individuals of different races under one nationality as they work together with pride for the betterment of their country

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the municipal council of the City of Orange Township does celebrate May 18, 2024 as Haitian Flag Day in the City of Orange Township.

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED** join Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten & South Ward Councilmember for a Haitian Flag Raising celebration on May 18, 2024 at 29 North Day Street, City of Orange Township, time to be determined.

**Adopted: May 7, 2024**

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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

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**Tency A. Eason**  
Council President