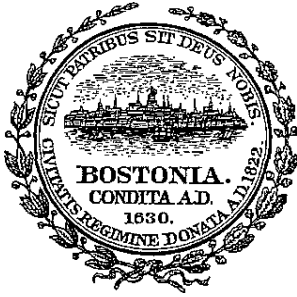


OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND TO CELEBRATE THE INDEPENDENCE OF CABO VERDE AND TO DECLARE JULY AS CABO VERDEAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, On July 5th, 1975, following years of plight and withstanding the clutches of Portuguese colonialism, Cabo Verde, also known as Cape Verde, emerged as a beacon of resilience when they achieved independence, which continues to inspire the world; *and*

WHEREAS, Portuguese colonizers imported enslaved Africans from the West coast, created trade routes connecting Africa, Europe, and the Americas, with the archipelago developing into the largest port of the transatlantic slave trade throughout the 16th century, leaving a deep and lasting impact on the economic and political history of Cabo Verde and its diaspora; *and*

WHEREAS, As one of the most prominent colonies involved in the transatlantic slave trade, Cabo Verde saw frequent battles between both colonizing forces and rogue pirates to determine ownership over the islands, leaving both physical and emotional scars on the nation and its people; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition, the islands of Cabo Verde were the setting for exiled political prisoners of Portugal and a place of refuge for Jews, and other groups facing religious persecution during the Spanish-Portuguese Inquisition, influencing the rich and dynamic culture and history of the islands today; *and*

WHEREAS, The unwavering fortitude empowered them to prevail despite undergoing rapid economic decline, natural disasters, recurring famines, Portuguese rule, and mass immigration in pursuit of a better life; *and*

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion was made possible by the brave and heroic efforts of Cape Verdean leaders such as Amilcar Cabral—who led Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde's nationalist movement and the war of independence in Guinea-Bissau before tragically being assassinated on January 20, 1973—in addition to Titina Sila, and Francisca Pereira; *and*

WHEREAS, Creating a new government in Cabo Verde in the wake of centuries of enslavement and colonial persecution did not come easy, with frequent draughts, limited government funding, and high unemployment rates; *and*

WHEREAS, Since its independence, Cabo Verde has engaged in diplomatic missions across the world, including Cuba and Cape Verde's medical cooperation, with hundreds of Cape Verdean doctors trained in Cuba beginning in 1975; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite challenges, the nation of Cabo Verde represents the enduring values of freedom, unity, and national pride that have shaped the nation's journey towards progress and prosperity; *and*

WHEREAS, Massachusetts is home to the largest Cabo Verdean population in the United States, with many well-known Cabo Verdeans in fields such as the arts, medicine, academia, public health, education, non-profit advocacy, and more; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing Cape Verde Independence represents the resiliency and enduring spirit of Cabo Verdeans in their pursuit of freedom, while also acknowledging the very real inequities currently experienced by Cabo Verdean people throughout Boston and the world, including marginalization, disenfranchisement, and systemic oppression, creating an opportunity for Boston to commit to policies and fiscal commitments that ameliorate the systemic harms experienced by Cabo Verdeans throughout the city; *and*

WHEREAS, Cabo Verdean Heritage Month offers an opportunity not just to celebrate the diverse accomplishments and contributions Cabo Verdeans have made throughout the world, but to reaffirm Boston's commitment to embracing diversity, fostering inclusivity, and standing in solidarity with nations around the world in their quest for freedom, justice, and self-determination; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby officially recognizes July 5th as Cabo Verde's Independence Day and shall host a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the occasion; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby officially declares July as Cabo Verdean Heritage Month.

Filed on: June 26, 2024