

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, MEJIA,
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CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AMILCAR CABRAL AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA AND CABO VERDE

WHEREAS, Amílcar Cabral, born on September 12, 1924, in Guinea-Bissau to Cabo Verdean parents António Lopes da Costa Cabral and Iva Pinhel Évora, emerged as a towering figure in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, dedicating his life to the liberation of Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde from Portuguese colonial rule, a mission that would define his legacy and inspire generations to come; *and*

WHEREAS, Educated in agronomy in Portugal, Cabral became acutely aware of the injustices and inequalities imposed upon African peoples under colonial rule, igniting within him a fervent desire for change and liberation; *and*

WHEREAS, While in Portugal, Cabral founded student-led civil rights movements in opposition to the ruling Portuguese dictatorship and in pursuit of independence for the colonies of Portugal, demonstrating an early brilliance for activism and social justice before his return to Africa; *and*

WHEREAS, Upon returning to Guinea-Bissau in the early 1950s, Amílcar Cabral became actively involved in organizing resistance against Portuguese colonialism, founding the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC) in 1956, which would later become the vanguard of the liberation struggle in both countries; *and*

WHEREAS, Amílcar Cabral's leadership of the PAIGC was characterized by his visionary approach to liberation, which emphasized the unity of African peoples across ethnic and linguistic lines, the importance of grassroots mobilization and education, and the strategic use of armed struggle as a means of achieving independence and self-determination; *and*

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, the PAIGC waged a protracted and determined struggle against Portuguese colonial forces, utilizing a combination of guerrilla warfare, diplomatic engagement, and mass mobilization to undermine colonial authority and build popular support for independence; *and*

WHEREAS, Cabral led with the values of self-liberation, nationalism, and pan-Africanism, convictions which he referred to as a "return to the source," describing this belief system as "not a voluntary step, but the only possible reply to the demand of concrete need, historically determined, and enforced by the inescapable

contradiction between the colonized society and the colonial power, the mass of the people exploited and the foreign exploitive class, a contradiction in the light of which each social stratum or Indigenous class must define its position;” *and*

WHEREAS, Cabral's unwavering commitment to the principles of Pan-Africanism, socialism, self-liberation, and anti-imperialism not only galvanized support for the liberation movement within Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde but also resonated with freedom fighters and revolutionaries across the African continent and the world; *and*

WHEREAS, Through his contributions to the liberation struggle extended beyond the battlefield, Cabral led the way in establishing educational and agricultural programs, healthcare initiatives, and women's empowerment projects aimed at building a more just and equitable society in the liberated territories; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite facing relentless persecution and violence from Portuguese colonial forces, Amílcar Cabral remained resolute in his commitment to the cause of liberation, inspiring courage and determination among his comrades and the people of Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde; *and*

WHEREAS, Tragically, Amílcar Cabral's life was cut short on January 20, 1973, when he was assassinated by agents of the Portuguese colonial regime, a cowardly act intended to silence his voice and crush the aspirations of the African people for freedom and self-determination; *and*

WHEREAS, Amílcar Cabral's legacy as a champion of African liberation and a visionary leader continues to resonate today, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all those who strive for justice, dignity, and equality in Africa and beyond; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council humbly and reverently recognizes and honors the extraordinary life, enduring legacy, and monumental contributions of Amílcar Cabral to the noble cause of African liberation. With profound respect, the Council pledges to perpetually commemorate his memory and ideals within the City of Boston, ensuring that his legacy remains a beacon of inspiration and a guiding light for future generations to embrace and emulate.

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