

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



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE WEST AFRICAN NATION OF GHANA AND THEIR LIBERATION FROM BRITISH COLONIALISM ON MARCH 6TH, 1957

- WHEREAS,** On March 6th, 1957, under the leadership of the esteemed Pan Africanist leader Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana became the first nation within Sub-Saharan Africa to achieve political independence; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Said independence was an inspiration to various other leaders and movements throughout the African diaspora and lovers of freedom everywhere, including to such legendary 20th Century African leaders as Patrice Lumumba of Congo and Amilcar Cabral of Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston recognizes the rich and storied history of Ghana, a nation that predates colonization with a heritage rooted in ancient kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Dagbon and The Ashanti Empire, contributing significantly to Africa's cultural and historical tapestry; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The resilient people of Ghana endured Portuguese and Dutch control in the 15th Century, particularly in the region then referred to as the Gold Coast, followed by a protracted struggle against British Colonialism, marked by fierce resistance from Akan-Nation states and the enduring legacy of the Ashanti Empire; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The historical struggles of Ghana exemplify a relentless fight for autonomy, culminating in the tireless efforts and visionary leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, a former student at the HBCU Lincoln University and a devoted follower of Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. DuBois; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Ghana's journey to independence reached its pinnacle on March 6th, 1957, when it proudly declared itself the first Sub-Saharan African nation to achieve political independence, setting an inspiring precedent for the entire continent; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Ghana's fight for independence served as a beacon of inspiration for leaders and movements throughout the African diaspora and beyond, influencing iconic figures such as Patrice Lumumba of Congo, Amilcar Cabral of Guinea-Bissau and

Cabo Verde, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and the towering African American scholar W.E.B. DuBois, who chose to reside in Ghana and contribute to the Encyclopedia of Africa; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston acknowledges, honors, and celebrates the Independence of Ghana, a nation with a history marked by significant political, social, and economic transformations; *and*

WHEREAS, Ghana's post-colonial era under Nkrumah's administration aimed to spearhead African liberation and establish a socialist African unity, inspiring leaders across the continent; *and*

WHEREAS, The visionary leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, who served as the first president, faced challenges with haphazard administration, corruption, and declining living standards, ultimately leading to a 1966 coup and the establishment of the National Liberation Council; *and*

WHEREAS, Ghana achieved democratic stability with the first peaceful transfer of power between democratically elected governments in 2001, marking a milestone in its political history; *and*

WHEREAS, The subsequent presidencies of John Agyekum Kufuor, John Evans Atta Mills, and John Dramani Mahama, though facing challenges, contributed to Ghana's political and economic development; *and*

WHEREAS, In the wake of Ghana's independence, remarkable individuals emerged to contribute significantly to the advancement of the nation and the broader African continent; *and*

WHEREAS, Kofi Annan, through his distinguished service as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, brought unparalleled leadership, diplomacy, and advocacy for peace, human rights, and development to the global stage, earning him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, Hilla Limann, as the President of the Third Republic of Ghana, demonstrated unwavering commitment to democracy, national unity, and social progress during a pivotal period in the country's history; *and*

WHEREAS, Ama Ata Aidoo, an acclaimed Ghanaian author and playwright, has enriched literature and discourse on gender, identity, and African culture through her profound literary works, paving the way for generations of African writers and thinkers; *and*

WHEREAS, Their outstanding contributions have not only brought honor to Ghana but have also inspired countless individuals across the globe to strive for excellence, justice, and equality; *and*

WHEREAS, In honor of this rich and integral contribution made by the Ghanaian people, their proud and profound centuries long struggle from Western domination, and their ongoing independence and political sovereignty of 67 years, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the City of Boston hereby extends its heartfelt recognition, profound honor, and jubilant celebration towards the remarkable achievement of Ghana's independence. The 67th Anniversary of this historic occasion, realized on March 6th, 1957, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit and resilience that encapsulates the narrative of Ghana's sovereign journey.

Filed on March 6, 2024