

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



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF JAMES BALDWIN, A CELEBRATED AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITER AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

WHEREAS, James Baldwin's birthday, commemorated on August 2nd, marks the birth of an influential writer, activist, and thinker who left an indelible mark on literature, civil rights, and social justice movements; *and*

WHEREAS, Born in Harlem, New York in 1924, Baldwin rose to prominence as one of the most significant voices of the Civil Rights Era, using his literary works to confront and challenge systemic racism, oppression, and inequality in America; *and*

WHEREAS, Baldwin's literary contributions, including novels such as "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "The Fire Next Time," and "If Beale Street Could Talk," continue to resonate with readers worldwide, exploring themes of race, identity, sexuality, and the human condition with profound insight and empathy; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition to his literary influence, Baldwin actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement, advocating for racial equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and social justice through his powerful speeches, essays, and public engagements; *and*

WHEREAS, Baldwin courageously spoke truth to power and fearlessly confronted societal injustices, advocating for equality, dignity, and the fundamental rights of all individuals, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation; *and*

WHEREAS, Serving as a powerful catalyst for social change and cultural transformation, Baldwin's writing inspires generations of activists, artists, and intellectuals to challenge the status quo, dismantle systemic barriers, and strive for a more just and equitable society; *and*

WHEREAS, Celebrating James Baldwin's birthday offers an opportunity to reflect on his enduring impact, reaffirming our commitment to advancing the causes of civil rights, social justice, and human dignity, and honoring his contributions to the ongoing struggle for equality and freedom for all; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council recognizes the enduring significance of James Baldwin's life and work and joins with communities worldwide in celebrating his life,

legacy, and contributions to literature, civil rights, and the pursuit of equality on the anniversary of his birth; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby acknowledges and celebrates James Baldwin's birthday, honoring his enduring legacy as a literary icon and champion of social justice, and reaffirming our commitment to upholding his ideals of equality, inclusion, and dignity for all.

Filed on: August 7, 2024