

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JULY 5TH, CAPE VERDEAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, AS A MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY OBSERVED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

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, This momentous occasion was made possible by the brave and heroic efforts of Cape Verdean leaders such as Amilcar Cabral, Titina Sila, and Francisca Pereira during which Aristides Pereira was the first president and Pedro Pires was the initial Prime Minister; *and*

WHEREAS, Under their leadership, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) waged a successful armed struggle against the Portuguese; *and*

WHEREAS, Cape Verde was one of several West African nations to withstand the effects of colonization prior to reaching national liberation and independence; *and*

WHEREAS, PAIGC, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde, was the leading organ of this struggle, with Cabral as the leading theoretician; they centered their efforts around the countries of Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde; *and*

WHEREAS, With an orientation of Pan-Africanism, anti-colonialism, and internationalism, they recognized that their enemy was just one element of the Western, imperialist, project that acted to subjugate Africa and its peoples for centuries; *and*

WHEREAS, Cabo Verde was used as one of the largest supply ports during the transatlantic slave trade, the largest forced migration of people in world history; *and*

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

WHEREAS, As a result, there are 500,000 Cape Verdeans in the United States, where their rich culture and heritage has made foundational contributions to American society; *and*

WHEREAS, Nearly 1 in 5 Cape Verdean Americans live in the state of Massachusetts with the population totaling 50,000 people including significant numbers in cities such as Brockton, New Bedford, and Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is home to the largest, deep-rooted Cape Verdean immigrant community in the Western Hemisphere, with an estimated population of 13,605 people; *and*

WHEREAS, Cape Verdeans exercise an influential presence in Boston, contributing with their unique culture made up of food, music, storytelling, language, and art which can be felt across the political landscape, community advocacy efforts, public services, and local businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, Considering the prominence of Cape Verdeans and their culture in the city of Boston, their history and achievements should be honored in alignment with ethnic groups that have received recognition in the past; *and*

WHEREAS, The strength of the Cape Verdean community is reflected in their hard work, humility, and the difference they have made over generations despite difficult circumstances such as oppression, indigence, miscategorization of identity, and lack of recognition; *and*

WHEREAS, Just as “Dia de Kaboverdeanus”, also known as Cape Verdean Independence Day, was officially established 46 years ago, we endeavor to pay tribute to this significant milestone by acknowledging the indomitable spirit of Cape Verdeans in the present day; ***NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council and the City of Boston annually recognize July 5th, Cape Verdean Independence Day, as a municipal holiday

Filed: June 28, 2023