

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia, Arroyo, Baker, Breadon, Coletta, Durcan, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 AS BLACK JOY DAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS,

“Black Joy” is a dynamic movement, an act of resistance that reclaims our shared humanity and stands as an essential tool for survival. It weaves a rich tapestry of meanings, reflecting the brilliance of living unapologetically and radiantly in one's own skin. It's an audacious celebration of self, irrespective of personal or collective struggles. Moreover, "Black Joy" takes the form of an exuberant dance, a resounding song, and an echoing laughter, even amidst the harshest trials. It embodies the profound belief that our greatness predates the chains of oppression, and our strength outshines the darkest struggles we encounter; *and*

WHEREAS,

More than just a jubilation, Black Joy Day stands tall as a radiant beacon of resistance. Through the harmony of Black music, the depth of poetry, and profound dialogues on restorative justice, we aim to amplify the empowerment and resilience of Black voices worldwide. In the words of Thaddeus Miles, “Black Joy Day is more than a moment, it’s a movement. A symphony of voices, talents, and spirits, echoing the resilience, love, and vibrancy of our community. Let’s come together to feel, heal, and revel in the rhythm of joy;” *and*

WHEREAS,

The transformative initiatives range from fostering self-care and engaging children to radiating joy within marginalized communities, drawing inspiration from the vibrant "Joy of Kayaking 2023" event that celebrates the spirit of community, exploration, and well-being, and embracing the ethos of the Road to Wellness celebration which champions a diverse journey towards mental, physical, and spiritual health. These efforts also encompass highlighting remarkable black innovators in fields traditionally dominated by non-POC individuals, forming a tapestry of empowerment and resilience within our vibrant city; *and*

WHEREAS,

Raising this issue is of utmost significance due to its potential to inspire and foster a sense of unity, joy, and empowerment within our community. By acknowledging and celebrating Black Joy Day, we are not only honoring the rich history and resilience of the black community but also promoting a movement of resistance, humanity, and survival. This recognition serves as a reminder that

amidst challenges, we can find strength, joy, and greatness. By bringing attention to this issue, we aim to create a lasting impact that transcends boundaries and enriches the lives of all residents of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS,

The reality for people in Boston underscores the urgent need for meaningful connections, positivity, and support. Amidst the challenges faced by our diverse community, the celebration of Black Joy Day becomes a beacon of hope, a reminder that regardless of circumstances, we can come together to share in moments of happiness and resilience. By recognizing the realities that individuals in Boston confront daily, we highlight the importance of creating spaces where joy, unity, and strength can thrive, fostering a more inclusive and vibrant city for all; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council recognize September 9, 2023 as Black Joy Day in the City of Boston.

Filed in Council: August 30, 2023