

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



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JULY 5th AS DIA DI KABUVERDIANUS NA BOSTON aka "BOSTON CABO VERDEAN'S DAY"

WHEREAS, On July 5th, 1975, after years of struggle against Portuguese colonialism by the heroic likes of Amilcar Cabral, Titina Silia, Francisca Pereira, and many others, Cabo Verde became an independent nation, with Aristides Pereira as first president and Pedro Pires as initial prime minister; *and*

WHEREAS, Cabo Verde was one of several West African nations to engage in a struggle for national liberation and independence. PAIGC, the leading organ of this struggle, with Cabral as the leading theoretician, centered both Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde in its efforts. 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 has played a seminal role in Africa's modern struggle for freedom and liberation. As such, Cabo Verdean Independence day has much to say to us today; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is home to one of the largest Cape Verdean communities in the United States, and nearly ¼ of all Cabo Verdean Americans live in the state of Massachusetts. Cabo Verdean immigration to the United States began in the early 19th century, when they came aboard New England whaling ships; *and*

WHEREAS, The island, as a perpetual victim of European colonial indifference and misuse of the land base, began to suffer intermediate famines. Additionally, a corrupt pirate class arose which wreaked significant havoc on a decade by decade basis; *and*

WHEREAS, Cabo Verde is home to Pico do Fogo, which is an active stratovolcano, lying on the coast of Fogo. The volcano is at the highest peak found in West Africa, and last erupted in 1680, leading to a significant exodus from the archipelago; *and*

WHEREAS, There are over 40,000 Cabo Verdeans in Boston, with about 65,000 throughout the Commonwealth; *and*

WHEREAS, We exercise a powerful influence and presence in Boston, with our food, our music, our language, our art, and our people contributing greatly to our city; *and*

WHEREAS, Considering the powerful presence of Cabo Verdeans in the region, I strongly believe that the City of Boston should formally recognize, and celebrate July 5th as Cabo Verdean Independence Day; *and*

WHEREAS, Other local ethnic and immigrant groups have already gained such recognition; *and*

WHEREAS, The end goal is not to take away anything from any group that is so recognized, but rather to state firmly that our Cabo Verdean community, of which I am a proud member, is equally deserving of being acknowledged; *and*

WHEREAS, We have been here for generations. We have worked hard and humbly, often under difficult circumstances and for inadequate pay. We have raised our families, paid our taxes, bought and rented homes, right here in this city, by the thousands;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the City of Boston recognize July 5th of each year as **DIA DI KABUVERDIANUS NA BOSTON** aka “Boston Cabo Verdean’s Day”.

Filed: June 29, 2022