

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, COLETTA,
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CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT ABOLITIONIST HARRIET TUBMAN

- WHEREAS,** The monumental abolitionist and freedom fighter Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross in March of 1822 and died on March 10th, 1913; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Tubman was born enslaved, but escaped from her horrific bondage, and would go on to make 13 missions to rescue anywhere from 70 to nearly 200 people, depending on various estimates; *and*
- WHEREAS,** She accomplished this by working with a network of anti-slavery activists and utilizing what became known as the Underground Railroad, which was a series of safe houses and destinations used by those escaping enslavement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Tubman achieved this astounding record despite being brutalized as an enslaved youth, including having a heavy metal thrown at her head that caused ongoing dizziness and headaches for the remainder of her life; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Furthermore, Tubman began experiencing visions and dreams that she attributed as communications from God, which made her very religious and strengthened her as she routinely faced death in order to free her fellow people; *and*
- WHEREAS,** She made her escape from Maryland to Philadelphia in 1849, only to return to Maryland shortly thereafter to free several members of her family, eventually returning a dozen additional times to free at least over 70 people, and possibly as many as 200; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Known as Moses for her daring forays from enslavement into freedom, she always traveled at night, under the cover of darkness, and apparently never lost a passenger on any of the excursions she led; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1858, she met the great white abolitionist John Brown, and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his daring 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry in Virginia

WHEREAS, When the Civil War commenced, Tubman worked for the Union army, initially as a nurse and cook, and eventually as an armed scout and spy; *and*

WHEREAS, She would go on to lead a raid at the Combahee Ferry, liberating 700 enslaved people and became credited as the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the Civil War; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite this stellar record of service, she received little pay for her efforts, obtaining a total of only 200 dollars for three years of service, an amount equal to roughly \$4,000 in 2024 dollars; *and*

WHEREAS, In her later years, she became involved in the women's suffrage movement, advocating for a woman's right to vote alongside Susan B. Anthony; *and*

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was a towering figure who bravely and brilliantly combated the unmitigated evil that was the system of enslavement practiced in the United States, freeing hundreds of people via her endeavors, and demonstrating, via her actions, the incredibly changes that a courageous and compassionate person can make: ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council hereby acknowledges and commemorates the indispensable contributions, courage, and sacrifices, rendered by Harriet Tubman towards the advancement of enslaved individuals, with particular emphasis on her role in the liberation of all oppressed communities at large.

Filed on February, 28 2024