



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the growth and prosperity of the City of Key West is due in part to an ethnic diversity that includes a substantial and rapidly increasing Haitian population; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the valuable contribution of the Haitian people in the fight for the independence of the United States of America, especially in the battle of Savannah, and pay due tribute to their endowment; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian population in South Florida joins together during the month of May to commemorate their "Flag Day" and celebrate their historical and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, The Haitian Heritage Month celebration is an expansion of the Haitian Flag Day, a major patriotic day celebration in Haiti and the Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Haitian President Dumarsais Estimé started the Flag Day celebration with parades, cultural and athletic events in many cities in Haiti in the 1930s, when he was minister of education under President Sténio Vincent. Estimé wanted to commemorate annually the creation of the Haitian flag on May 18 to encourage the development of patriotic sentiments among Haitian youth; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to promote awareness, and understanding of cultural diversity in our society in order to strengthen the self-esteem of our multicultural community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 18, 2024 as

HAITIAN FLAG DAY

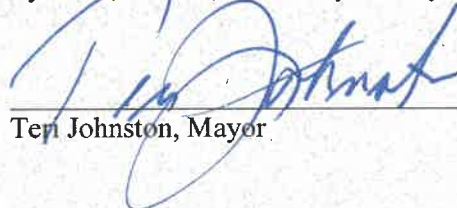
and the month of May 2024 as

HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States." I would like to urge all citizens, residents, and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in this observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 9th day of May 2024.




Teri Johnston, Mayor

Sam Kaufman, Vice Mayor