

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JUNE AS NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS This year marks the 24th anniversary of the founding of the National Caribbean American Heritage Month since its recognition in August 1999 by The White House during a Caribbean Community Briefing. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Office of Congress woman Barbara Lee worked together to organize events on Capitol Hill and galvanize support for the Bill from organizations across the country in 2004. The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives in June 2005 and by the Senate in February 2006. A Proclamation making the resolution official was signed by President George Bush on June 5, 2006;

WHEREAS Immigrants from the Caribbean region have been settling in Michigan since the 1800's. Families found lodgings in the established black neighborhood of the lower east side, known as Black Bottom;

- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church- *Deemed the "West Indian Church"*
- Bethel AME
- St. Cyprian

WHEREAS In 1925, thirteen leaders of the black community founded Detroit Memorial Park as a response to the segregation at local cemeteries including; Joseph Gomez (Trinidad), James M. Gregory (Jamaica) and Vollington Bristol (Barbados).

Reference: Dr. Beard, Kathryn Lorraine, "Higher than those of their race of less fortunate advantages: Race, ethnicity, and West Indian political leadership in Detroit's African American community, 1885-1940" (2011). Wayne State University Dissertations. Paper 269.

WHEREAS National Caribbean American Heritage Month (NCAHM) has declared the theme for this year's commemoration to be "Honoring our journey, shaping our future" and has encouraged people in all countries to join the global conversation of celebration of inclusivity and diversity; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED That the City of Detroit;

- Recognizes the 24nd anniversary of the establishment of National Caribbean American Heritage Month (NCAHM), as well as the needs for and benefits of celebrating inclusivity and diversity
- Affirms the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of the roles Caribbean immigrants have played in the City of Detroit
- Applauds Caribbean Nationals for the services they provide in the growth and development of the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan
- Encourages residents of all ages in the City of Detroit to commemorate and celebrate the mission, vision and purpose of the Caribbean led organizations to support, empower and advocate for Caribbean Nationals in the Americas

- Calls on the United States government to reaffirm its support for the Caribbean region and its citizens to create a sustainable welcoming environment for them and their families; **THEREFOR BE IT FINALLY**;

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council recognizes June as National Caribbean American Heritage month.