

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month is a celebration in the United States of Haitian heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS, it was first celebrated in Boston Massachusetts, in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Tele Kreyol, one of the Boston Haitian Access Television programs, celebrated the whole month of May with a series of programs on Haitian history, culture, and contributions to the world; and

WHEREAS, the month-long celebration has continued with such activities as parades, flag raisings, and exhibits organized by Haitian-Americans United, Inc. (H.A.U.) in collaboration with several Haitian organizations in the New England area; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian community of Palm Beach County, FL which started the Heritage celebration in 2001, contributed greatly to make the Heritage Month first a statewide celebration, and then, a national one in the United States; and

WHEREAS, South Florida congressman Kendrick Meek introduced unsuccessfully a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004 and 2006 to recognize the month of May as Haitian-American Heritage Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush and his wife Laura Bush sent a letter in May 2005 to congratulate the Haitian-American community for the heritage month and organized a celebration the same year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim May as:

HAITIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

and encourage all our residents to join in this recognition of the accomplishments and contributions made to our community and country by Haitian Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of May 2022.

**SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR**