

**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 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

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**SHELLY PETROLIA**  
**MAYOR**