

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Buffalo, New York's Michigan Avenue corridor in celebration of Black History Month

WHEREAS, February has been designated as Black History Month in our Nation to celebrate and recognize the contributions of the Black community; this joyful month-long celebration is held across New York State and America to fittingly note the contributions of African Americans throughout history and in all fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Buffalo, New York's Michigan Avenue corridor in celebration of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, African Americans resided in the City of Buffalo as early as the 1790s; since then, their contributions have left tremendous landmarks which assisted in the formulation of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, The proposed district location to be recognized starts from East Ferry to Masten Avenue, then continues south to Woodlawn Avenue onto Michigan Avenue and ends at Swan Street; and

WHEREAS, There have been some notable examples about these locations, including: the Michigan Street Baptist Church which was organized in 1836 and built in 1845, and was considered a major part in the abolitionist movement as a stop on the Underground Railroad; the Langston Hughes Institute, an organization which has provided continuous services to the Western New York community since 1968 along with being a central gathering place for cultural and community events; the Colored Musicians Club that began in 1917 when African Americans were prohibited membership to the whites-only American Federation of Musicians local chapter; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which was founded in Buffalo in 1905 by Mary B. Talbert, who secretly hosted black political activists including W.E.B. Du Bois, John Hope and nearly 30 others around her dining room table for the first meeting of what would eventually become the Niagara Movement, a forerunner to the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, African Americans reflect a proud legacy of courage and dedication that has helped to guide our Nation's success and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the African American community for preserving for future generations its centuries-old traditions that benefit us all and add to the color and beauty of the tapestry which is our American society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Buffalo, New York's Michigan Avenue corridor in celebration of Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted at events commemorating Black History Month throughout the State of New York.