

Senate Resolution No. 1976

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMENDING** the 7th Annual Haitian Culture Day  
Parade and Festival on May 9, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and communities whose commitment to cultural celebration, historical remembrance, and community pride enriches the civic and cultural life of the State of New York and the City of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the organizers and participants of the 7th Annual Haitian Culture Day Parade and Festival, presented by Life of Hope on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Haiti holds a singular and irreplaceable place in the history of the world: on January 1, 1804, the people of Haiti, the majority of them enslaved Africans who had risen up and broken their chains, established the first Black republic in the Western Hemisphere and the first nation in history born of a successful slave revolution, defeating the forces of Napoleon Bonaparte and forever changing the course of human freedom; Haiti's victory was not merely a national triumph but a moral declaration heard across the Atlantic world, inspiring liberation movements and striking fear into the hearts of slaveholding powers everywhere; and

**WHEREAS,** May is recognized as Haitian Heritage Month in the State of New York, a time to honor the extraordinary history, culture, and contributions of the Haitian people and the Haitian diaspora, whose presence in New York City enriches every aspect of our civic, cultural, economic, and political life; and

**WHEREAS,** The Haitian Culture Day Parade and Festival, presented under the 2026 theme "We Belong," winds through Brooklyn's officially recognized Little Haiti and Little Caribbean districts, a corridor that bears the names of two of Haiti's most beloved sons: Toussaint L'Ouverture, the revolutionary general who led the Haitian Revolution, and Pierre Toussaint, the Haitian-born philanthropist and devout Catholic whose legacy of charity lives on in these streets; and

**WHEREAS,** The parade brings together community organizations, marching bands, dancers, cheerleaders, and floats honoring Haitian history and culture, followed by a free, family-friendly festival featuring live musical performances, arts, cuisine, vendors, and community resources, a celebration that affirms the dignity, resilience, and pride of the Haitian community in the heart of Brooklyn; and

**WHEREAS,** The Haitian diaspora community in Brooklyn represents one of the most vibrant, civically engaged, and culturally rich communities in the State of New York, and the residents of this great State are

proud to call their Haitian neighbors partners in building a more just, more joyful, and more beautifully diverse New York; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor Life of Hope, its leadership and volunteers, and all who contribute to making the Haitian Culture Day Parade a living expression of one of the most powerful freedom stories in human history; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the organizers and participants of the 7th Annual Haitian Culture Day Parade and Festival on May 9, 2026, and to extend congratulations and deepest appreciation to the Haitian community of Brooklyn and New York State for the enduring gifts of their history, their culture, and their presence among us; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Life of Hope and the organizers of the Haitian Culture Day Parade and Festival, as an expression of this Legislative Body's profound admiration and support for their work.