

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month is an important time of the year for members of the Haitian community; and

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month is an expansion of Haitian Flag Day, a major patriotic celebration in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month was first celebrated in Boston, Massachusetts, and Haitian-American leaders in Florida are attempting to make it a national celebration, just like other heritage celebrations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haitian Heritage Month includes traditions like Labor and Agriculture Day, Teacher's Day, Haitian Flag Day, University Day and Mother's Day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orlando takes great pride in the diversity of people, cultures and traditions represented by its residents; and

WHEREAS, Orlando is enriched by the significant and lasting contributions of its residents of Haitian heritage and recognizes their achievements and success in all aspects of society, including business, education, law, the arts and sciences; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Orlando join Minister-Counsellor Pierre Max Charles, the new General Consulate of the Republic of Haiti in Orlando, and the Haitian community in celebrating the rich history and culture of the Republic of Haiti;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando, and Samuel B. Ings, District 6 City Commissioner, hereby do proclaim May 2017, as

“Haitian Heritage Cultural Month”

in the City of Orlando.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this ____ day of May 2017.